Leading the Nation in Innovation:
2009 IMSA Fund Annual Report
IMSA360

Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee
IMSA President

In just over two decades, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy® (IMSA) has become one of the premier institutions of its kind in our state, nation and world. I am proudly to say that Intel, a global leader in science and technology innovation, endorses this assertion by naming IMSA the nationwide winner of its Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award. This award is presented annually to only one educational institution that has a “comprehensive program incorporating innovative and effective use of technology, engaging parents and the community in students’ education, fostering development and teamwork and delivering achievement of high academic standards.”

There is an important dimension to the Intel Star Innovator Award that is the theme of this IMSA360 issue—engaging the community in education. It takes a wide community—teachers, staff, students, parents, alumni, trustees, donors, legislators and partners—to stimulate excellence in education. By working together and combining our resources, we accelerate the creation of new bodies of knowledge, services and programs.

This issue highlights how partners and donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, our 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, enable our capacity to deepen, enrich and expand teaching and learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Our corporate donors share the belief that strong educational programs in STEM are essential to securing a highly skilled workforce. Through grants from the Abbott Fund and the Tellabs Foundation, we are launching CoolHub.IMSA, a robust network that promotes innovation and collaboration as learners and experts of all ages and from any location work together to find innovative solutions to real-world challenges, such as improving water quality and producing alternative energy sources. Thanks from the Motorola Foundation enhance IMSA’s capacity to provide professional development in Problem Based Learning (PBL) to teachers throughout Illinois. Our Intel Award includes products and services that will enhance our instructional technology initiatives. A host of public and private partners and donors enable IMSA to expand environmental learning initiatives.

Our partners share our conviction that all teachers and children should have access to innovative instructional programs that foster imagination and inquiry. We are deeply appreciative of our many public and private supporters who have fervently endorsed the opening of IMSA Field Offices in Chicago and Metro East. Our physical presence in these communities enables us to expand the delivery of IMSA services and coordinate resources with local organizations that provide access to innovative instructional programs that foster imagination and inquiry.

In closing, I want to say that our Intel Star Innovator Award goes to two decades of staunch IMSA supporters who had bold dreams and the courage, conviction and tenacity to make those bold dreams happen. This award goes to you.

Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee
IMSA President

The mission of IMSA, the world’s leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.
Abbott Fund Sparks Collaborative Innovation Networks

Students and teachers involved in IMSA's pilot environmental chemistry project on storm water purification use advanced communications to connect with Abbott scientists and experts around the globe thanks to a generous grant from the Abbott Fund. The grant supports CoolHub.IMSA, a unique system of physical and virtual meeting spaces with Web-based conferencing and collaboration tools that enables learners of all ages to explore big questions, develop ideas, and innovate together. The CoolHub.IMSA network engages teachers, students, scientists and others in finding innovative solutions to improve water quality, producing alternative sources of energy and expanding learning opportunities for residents of remote communities. The grant also supports the IMSA-Abbott CyberQuiz 4Kids featuring challenging online mathematics and science brainteasers and word problems for Illinois students in grades 6-9. CyberQuiz 4Kids has encouraged thousands of students from every corner of Illinois to develop problem-solving skills.

Caterpillar Promotes Hands-on Learning Through Robotics

Caterpillar is a true exemplar when it comes to sharing time, talent and treasure to advance student learning. Caterpillar representatives host IMSA Robotics Team students at Caterpillar facilities to expose them to real-world applications of product research, design and manufacturing. Caterpillar volunteers also devote their personal time to advise students on robot construction. In addition, the Caterpillar Foundation provides financial support that enables students to enter regional and national competitions such as the FIRST Robotics Competition (www.usfirst.org).

Tellabs Grant Breaks Physical Boundaries

A $60,000 grant from the Tellabs Foundation fosters face-to-face and online collaboration among educators and students located on IMSA's Aurora campus, at its Field Offices in Chicago and Metro East, and at other locations. The grant helps to provide IMSA CoolSpots, tech-enabled work zones that serve as pathways to a robust network that supports innovation through video conferencing, online forums and more.

IMSA Donors Gather for Special Event Featuring Renowned Alumnus

IMSA alumnus and internationally acclaimed astronomer Dr. Scott Gaudi '91 returned to his Illinois roots and IMSA to share his love of science and the joys of discovery. Dr. Gaudi, an assistant professor in the Department of Astronomy at The Ohio State University, received worldwide media attention for leading a team of 69 international astronomers in discovering a solar system similar to our own. His lecture, "A Quest for Our Origins: From Rural American Kid to Professional Astronomer," was held during the event IMSA – A Shining Star at the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago. The event, sponsored by Abbott and Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, attracted 150 prominent business, education and state government officials for an evening featuring a dinner, silent auction and Dr. Gaudi's special presentation. Proceeds from the event benefit the IMSA Fund and IMSA programs that serve children and teachers throughout Illinois.
Motorola Foundation Innovation Generation Grant Expands Professional Development

The Motorola Foundation awarded the IMSA Fund a third Innovation Generation Grant to enhance teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The $75,000 grant enables IMSA to expand Problem-Based Learning (PBL) professional development to teachers in a new site, in addition to those in Cartersville, Chicago, Rockford and Springfield. Through three Innovation Generation Grants, the Motorola Foundation has generously provided a total of $275,000 for PBL professional development expansion.

To donate or learn about programs supported by the IMSA Fund visit www.imsa.edu/giving.

IMSA Faculty and Staff Contribute to Their Fields

IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. ‘Max’ McGee was elected to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association for Gifted Children. Deb Gerdes, professional development leader for Problem-Based Learning, is the co-author of “Student Have the Answers,” an article featured in the September issue of ASCD’s Educational Leadership.

Dr. Peter Dong, science faculty member, is a co-author of the article “Observation of Electroweak Single Top-Quark Production,” published in the American Physical Society’s Physical Review Letters journal, Volume 103, Issue 9.

Sarah O’Leary, science faculty member, is a recipient of the 2009 Illinois Science Teachers Association New Teacher of the Year Award.

At the National Association for Gifted Children Conference, Dr. Eric McLaren, principal and vice president for academic programs, and Christopher Kolar, coordinator of research and evaluation, presented IMSA’s leadership role in a large-scale national study of specialized public high schools in science, mathematics and technology by the American Psychological Association funded by the National Science Foundation. IMSA Board of Trustees First Vice Chairman Dr. Paul Otleszki-Kubikus, who is the director of the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University and the president-elect for the National Association for Gifted Children, also presented at the session.

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, IMSA founding president and president emerita, was one of 120 international leaders in education, business and philanthropy invited to attend the Dalai Lama Summit held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dr. Michael Kastery, mathematics faculty member, presented “Student Questions That Changed the Way I Teach Geometry” at the Successfully Training Educators as Mathematics Trainers Conference (STEAM 5) at Texas A&M University, and “Through Discovery Geometry Students Can See and See Leaves and Blossoms” at a forum hosted by the Association of Independent Michigan Schools (AIMS).

Adrienne Coleman, coordinator of multicultural enrollment; Dr. Glenn W. ‘Max’ McGee, IMSA president; Barbara Miller, director of enrollment & academic services; Roberto Suarez, college and academic counselor; and Dr. Anita White, science faculty member, appeared as guests on the Eugene Matthews Show – “I Had to Say It.” The talk show aired on Chicago Access Network Television. Discussion topics focused on IMSA’s Academic and Co-curricular Programs, IMSA’s Application Process, STEM Education and Professional Field Services.

Students Excel in National and Global Venues

At the North American Regional Presentation of the Yay Mathematical Award held in Los Angeles, Irene Xiong Chen won a $2,000 scholarship and became a U.S. finalist to compete for the Yay Awards in Beijing. Her project is “Coordinate-free characterization of homogeneous polynomials with isolated singularities.”

Lisa Akintilo is one of only 55 U.S. high school students of Russian to be recognized as a 2009 Russian Scholar Laureate by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

Elizabeth Murphy and Christine Pak received Silver Awards in the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools National Student Essay Contest.

Vladislav Kontoos, Anusha Kumar, Jonathan Park and Nancy Yu were named semifinalists in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. The competition “recognizes remarkable talent early on, fostering individual growth for high school students who are willing to challenge themselves through science research.”

Sara Alguil, Irene Chen, Alina Kononov and Rose Sloan were invited to participate in the first annual Math Prize for Girls Competition sponsored by the Advantage Testing Foundation. Alina Kononov tied for 13th place in the national competition.

Jamie Ray was profiled in the August 3, 2009 issue of Fermilab Today for his work on the hunt for the Higgs boson with his mentor Craig Group, Fermilab scientist.

Combating Cancer

Piyush Gupta ‘95, a researcher at the Brook Institute, is co-first author of a study published in the journal Cell showcasing the discovery of a chemical that can kill cancer stem cells. More information about Gupta’s study and its implications for future cancer treatment has been widely covered in the media and can be viewed on the IMSA Web site at https://www3.imsa.edu/news/releases.

Educator on the Rise

Kathleen Plinske ‘97 was appointed Interim President at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Most recently, Plinske served as Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at McHenry County College and has held a number of positions there, beginning in 2001 when she served as Instructional Media Specialist. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Physics with highest distinction from Indiana University in Bloomington, her Masters degree in Spanish from Roosevelt University and a Doctorate degree in Educational Technology with honors from Pepperdine University in California. She was also recently named by Phi Delta Kappa as one of 24 emerging leaders in education worldwide. She serves as the Interim President through June 30, 2010.

Fulbright Scholar

Melissa Comenduey ‘00 received a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to Lithuania in Sociology. She is one of more than 1,500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2009-10 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, sponsored by the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Giving Hope

Dr. Samir Bangalore ‘94, a neurologist at the Nevada Neurosciences Institute at Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas, is featured in the October 4, 2009 edition of the Las Vegas Sun in the story “Chris Stones’ story: A life defined by epilepsy.” In the story, Dr. Bangalore is featured for performing brain surgery on Stones with the hope of helping him live a “seizure-free” life.

Serving Our Country

Erin Talbot ’09 was one of only 290 applicants from more than 4,000 nationwide nominated to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Erin is majoring in civil engineering and participates in the regimental band as a trumpet player.

Master Swimmers

Davida Smith ‘06 and Stephanie Dold ‘04 both modeled at the U.S. Masters Swimming National Long Course Championships, held at the IU Purdue/Northeastern University Aquatic Center in Las Vegas, is featured in the story and accompanying six-minute online video “Simulation center helps close the gap between classroom learning and patient care” in the October 4, 2009 edition of the Bloomington sun. Smith finished 2nd in the 18-24 Women’s 500 Backstroke and Dold won the 18-24 Women’s 1500m Freestyle and was also part of the winning 10+ Mixed 800m Freestyle Relay team. Both were coached by former IMSA Head Girls Swimming Coach Dr. Chris Colburn and represented the Academy Bullets Masters club. The Bullets finished 4th out of 114 teams in the independent club division at the meet.

Starring in the ER

Alexa Bisinger ‘00, a student at Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford University School of Business, is featured in the story and accompanying six-minute online video “Simulation center helps close the gap between classroom learning and patient care” on the School’s Web site. In the video, Bisinger and a fellow medical school student are challenged in a series of emergency room situations at the Goodman Simulation Center.
2009 IMSA Board of Trustees Alumni Award Winners

(l-to-r) Dr. Thandeka Chapman ’89, Dr. Rebecca Willett ’96, Sendhil Revuluri ’90, Pooja Agarwal ’01 and Joshua Gerlick ’99 were honored during IMSA Homecoming in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions to their professions, to IMSA and to the citizens of Illinois, our nation and the world. For complete profiles of the 2009 IMSA Board of Trustees Alumni Award winners visit https://www3.imsa.edu/alumni/awards.

ALUMNI-IN-ACTION

Donald E. Elmore Jr. ’94 received the Pinanski Prize in June 2009, which is awarded annually to members of the Wellesley College faculty “to honor fine teaching.” According to the college Web site, the “Prize is meant to recognize some particular strength, some style or method or course, or some other describable event that has been especially successful.” Elmore is currently an assistant professor at Wellesley College in the chemistry department, where he teaches biochemistry and the introductory chemistry curriculum. His research work focuses on using computational modeling and experimental biochemical techniques to study membrane proteins, particularly antimicrobial peptides and ion channels.

Jeremy Best ’98 completed his oral defense for his doctorate in History and was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship to Germany in Modern History. He is currently living in Berlin and working on research for his dissertation.

ALUMNI-CORNER

Hamster Ball Enthusiast

Let me start by thanking IMSA Alumni for selecting me to serve as the next IAA President. I have the good fortune of entering the role after four years of service by Ande Croll ’97 and the creation of the new position of Coordinator of Alumni Engagement, held by Carolyn Johnson. Under Ande’s guidance, the Cabinet made large strides in expanding the capacity and scope of the IAA, and future projects will build on this legacy as the alumni population expands.

As an example of the ever-expanding responsibilities of the IAA, for the first time this past summer four class reunions were held (Classes of 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004), with 296 alumni attending and 250 guests (including 40 next-generation IMSAns) visiting campus for Alumni Weekend. I am looking forward to working with the Cabinet members selected during the annual meeting: Kevin Colby ’95, Hoena Desai ’95, Amy Kinney ’95, Ande Croll ’97, Jeremy Schuiz ’97, Winn Wason ’01, Art Wojtowicz ’02, Rakesh Gaddi ’06, Samuel Berger ’07, Eric Hultgren ’08 and Jonathan Koch ’08.

I would also like to thank the IMSA Fund for its support of the IAA. It is important for us to remember that the Fund provides 100% of the IAA’s budget, reinforcing the need for alumni to donate. As important as monetary donations are, however, there are many other ways to contribute, including time and energy.

I believe that the IMSA experience continues after graduation, and the Academy’s mission is a lifelong project for all of us. While we should consider ways to help the Academy and its current students, we must also find ways to support each other as alumni more than we have in the past. This expanded vision has guided many recent projects of the IAA, including the regional club events, college and career counseling sessions and student advising.

In order for the new Cabinet to better serve alumni, we need ideas and suggestions for future activities. Please seriously consider what you want and need both from IMSA and other alumni. Then let us know so we can make it happen!

—Matthew Knisley ’01
IMSA Alumni Association President
president@imsaalumni.org

Contribute to Community Notes Online!
What’s New in Your Life?

Let us and your fellow IMSA classmates/colleagues know about what you’ve been doing! Have you recently started a new job or been promoted? Are you involved in new and exciting community service projects or other activities? Have you recently been published, honored or elected? If so, please tell us about it at: www3.imsa.edu/news/community-notes
What Is the IMSA Fund?

The IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that accepts and distributes gifts and grants from the private sector to support IMSA’s mission and work. These contributions support programs and services for IMSA students and staff, other Illinois students, educators in Illinois and beyond, and activities for IMSA alumni and parents.

Corporations, foundations, small businesses and individual donors, including board members, alumni, current parents and alumni parents, staff members and friends, make possible numerous opportunities that otherwise would not occur. Gifts to the IMSA Fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law and recognized by our fiscal year, July 1 through June 30 each year. Our Tax Identification Number is #36-3422778.

Thank You for Your Support!

Your support is crucial to achieving IMSA’s ambitious and critically important mission. Public funding alone cannot “ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition.” Only through your contributions can IMSA continue to be an effective innovator that challenges the status quo, takes risks, breaks the mold and gets positive results. IMSA and the IMSA Fund represent a strong public-private partnership among education, government, business and individuals.

Your Contributions Support:

- Student programs in national and international academic forums and competitions.
- Statewide programs that enable Illinois children, especially the underserved, to discover the wonders of learning as they apply mathematics and science to build rockets, investigate crimes, confront local environmental issues, diagnose diseases and much more.
- Professional development programs that help Illinois teachers apply inquiry-based and problem-centered curriculum and instruction to their academic settings.
- Innovative and entrepreneurial projects that advance teaching and learning.
- Sophisticated equipment to advance research opportunities.

The IMSA Fund seeks forward-thinking, life-long private sector partners to help ensure that IMSA has the supplemental financial resources it needs to deliver on its promise to Illinois and its vision of hope and possibility for the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Year Ended</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>For the Year Ended</th>
<th>% of total</th>
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<td>June 30, 2008</td>
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<td>June 30, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$561,977.00</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>$598,390.00</td>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>47,122.00</td>
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<td>99,292.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>101,563.00</td>
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<td>143,402.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$710,662.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$841,084.00</td>
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SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>For the Year Ended</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>For the Year Ended</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$3,803,170.00</td>
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<td>$4,199,458.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions, Pledges, Support</td>
<td>991,857.00</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>903,903.00</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>115,087.00</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>91,990.00</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses (710,662.00)</td>
<td>(637,458.00)</td>
<td>-92%</td>
<td>(841,084.00)</td>
<td>-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Loss</td>
<td>(637,458.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Balance</strong></td>
<td>$4,199,452.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$3,716,018.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$396,282.00</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>($483,440.00)</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The IMSA Fund is audited by the Illinois Auditor General. This summary is preliminary; final financial statements will be available after completion of the audit at www.state.il.us/Auditor.
### The Kaleidoscope Society

The Kaleidoscope Society recognizes lifetime giving levels of $10,000 or more. The Kaleidoscope Society honors the diversity and generosity of its donors whose collective financial support facilitates the transformation of IMSA’s vision and mission into reality. These donors are also recognized on the donor wall located inside IMSA’s main entrance. The established donor recognition levels are to the right:

*The Muon is an elementary particle; the muon neutrino was discovered by members will be featured in the FY10 annual report.*

#### Cyan Society ($50,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- McCormick Corporation
- Dr. and Mrs. John E. Carson
- Illini Foundation
- G. F. Smith

#### Magenta Society ($25,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- Aon
- Caterpillar
- Foxconn

#### Violet Society ($1,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- Allstate Foundation
- Amentum
- Bell and Howell

#### Indigo Society ($500,000+)
- Anonymous
- A. T. Still University
- Argonne National Laboratory
- ARCO

#### Blue Society ($250,000+)
- Anonymous
- Aon
- Aon
- Allstate Foundation

#### Green Society ($100,000+)
- Anonymous
- Aon
- Allstate Foundation
- Argonne National Laboratory

#### Yellow Society ($50,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- McCormick Corporation
- Applied Computer Technology, Inc.
- Archer Daniels Midland Foundation
- G. Carl Ball

#### Orange Society ($25,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- Aon
- Allstate Foundation
- Argonne National Laboratory

#### Red Society ($20,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- Aon
- Allstate Foundation
- Argonne National Laboratory

#### Violet Society ($1,000,000+)
- Anonymous
- Allstate Foundation
- Amentum
- Bell and Howell

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## The Muon* Society

Introduced this year, the Muon Society will recognize and honor individuals and families who have established a planned gift of any size benefiting the IMSA Fund through their estate plans. Muon Society members invest in the long-term future of IMSA with their generous planned gift. A list of society members will be featured in the FY10 annual report.

To learn more or to notify us about your planned gift and membership to the Muon Society, please call (630) 907-5040.

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*The Muon is an elementary particle; the muon neutrino was discovered by scientists.*
IMG360
IMSA Celebrates Being Named the Nationwide Winner of the Intel Star Innovator Award

"With this award comes the need, the desire and the power to give back. We need to make bold dreams happen not just for us, but also for students and teachers throughout Illinois and across the country."

~ IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee

When welcoming Intel representative Joseph Krekeler, special guests and community members, IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee stated that Intel and IMSA share common attributes. “Intel describes its purpose as ‘developing technologies, products and initiatives to continually advance how people work and live,’” he said. “IMSA’s mission is to ‘ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition.’ We are united by our common vision that mathematics, science and technology hold the keys to improving people’s lives.”

Dr. Eric McLaren, IMSA principal and vice president for academic programs, paid tribute to the science faculty and staff by introducing each member leading to thunderous audience cheers and applause.

Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia read House Resolution 415 which she sponsored to “congratulate the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy on this award.” IMSA was also honored with presentation of a street sign by Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner and by Illinois State Representatives Kay Hatcher and Roger Eddy. Representative Cross told the celebration participants, “You [IMSA] are helping all of us—12 million people in this state—to remind others in this country that dreams happen not just for us, but also for students and teachers throughout Illinois and across the country.”

“With this award comes the need, the desire and the power to give back,” said Dr. McGee. “We need to make bold dreams happen not just for us, but also for students and teachers throughout Illinois and across the country.”

The audience gave speaker Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, IMSA founding president and president emerita, a standing ovation to recognize her role in choosing a bold path that contributed to the receipt of the Intel Innovator Award. Dr. Marshall described how the early years created a foundation for greatness. “What we and the science team had, was faith in our own imagination—our image of what was possible and a powerful idea about how real science could be experienced and taught,” she said.

During closing remarks, Science Team Curriculum and Assessment Leader Diane Hinterlong and Dr. McGee issued calls to action. Hinterlong said, “This honor challenges us to reflect on how we can continue to be a leader in STEM education.”

“Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner presented IMSA with a street sign acknowledging the award. “We want everyone in the city to know how proud we are of your achievements,” he said.

"IMSA is the nationwide winner of the 2009 Intel Star Innovator Award. This award is presented annually to one educational institution that has a “comprehensive program incorporating innovative and effective use of technology, engaging parents and the community in students’ education, fostering professional development and teamwork, and delivering consistent achievement of high academic standards.”

From an applicant pool of more than 700 educational institutions, IMSA was named one of the six 2009 Intel Schools of Distinction Award recipients for its science program. From these six, Intel selected IMSA to receive the top honor as Star Innovator during an awards reception in Washington, D.C. The honor comes with a $27,500 cash award and sponsor products and services, bringing the cash value of IMSA’s total award to $277,500.

Friends and supporters joined IMSA for a community-wide celebration held in November.

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IMSA 500 Campaign Drives Record Results in Alumni Giving Rates

Thanks to IMSA alumni who participated in the IMSA 500 – The Race to 16% Alumni Giving Campaign, the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education (IMSA Fund) reached 14% alumni giving—a record increase from 8% in FY08.

In an interview with IMSA Director of Development Jennifer Spuehler, we look at why IMSA alumni giving is so important to ensuring future Illinois students and teachers have access to IMSA’s world-class educational programs and services for generations to come.

IMSA360: Is this the first time IMSA has embarked on a giving campaign strictly for alumni and why now?

Spuehler: In March of 2009, IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee returned from Springfield where he had been addressing the State Legislature on the current status of IMSA. He mentioned the increased outreach opportunities IMSA offered to students and teachers statewide through the creation of the IMSA Field Offices in Chicago and the Metro East region. He noted student leadership in ‘growing’ IMSA, their participation in entrepreneurial learning and their engagement in creating collaborative learning opportunities with CoolHub.IMSA.

The members of the legislature were impressed, but concerned that only eight percent of IMSA alumni contributed financially to IMSA for that current fiscal year (2009). When Dr. McGee returned to campus, he had one goal on his mind: increase alumni participation to 16% so that we can tell the legislators that we had doubled alumni giving from March through June. We needed alumni, more than ever, to make that first gift or renew their support of IMSA and the IMSA Fund to demonstrate that IMSA alumni appreciate the education they received and want to give back to Illinois.

So we launched the IMSA 500 – The Race to 16% Alumni Giving Campaign in the spring of 2009. The 500 in the tag indicated the number of additional alumni donors we would need to hit our target. At the end of the campaign we landed at 14%, just shy of our goal, but still a large increase in donors from FY08 to FY09.

IMSA360: Why is the participation rate so important?

Spuehler: Participation numbers are important to show Illinois legislators that IMSA matters to its alumni, that alumni value the education they received with support from Illinois taxpayers, and that the state should continue to provide students throughout Illinois the opportunity to meet their potential.

We know our alumni are still relatively young, so our message about participation is as inclusive as it can be; any size gift counts toward participation. We recognize alumni donors by giving level, but also by class year.

IMSA360: What IMSA philanthropic projects are of particular interest to its alumni?

Spuehler: The residential life program is of particular importance to IMSA alumni. It is such a significant part of their lives when they are here. IMSA students and alumni are friends for life and that process happens through the residential program. At Homecoming 2008, we were able to rename residential hall 1903 “Alumni Hall” because alumni contributions exceeded $1 million.

Alumni are also very supportive of the IMSA Fund unrestricted fund, which allows IMSA the flexibility to support opportunities as they happen and as they are needed. For example, in 2009, unrestricted funds were used to purchase scientific equipment in the Grainger Center for Imagination and Inquiry. Alumni donors know that we use their funds to provide opportunities to students and faculty that would be very difficult or impossible to do using state dollars alone.

IMSA360: Are you noticing any particular trends in regards to alumni giving in the past, and alumni giving in the present?

Spuehler: In 2009, IMSA celebrated the 20th reunion of the Charter Class of 1989. It was the first year we featured four reunions in one Alumni Weekend, where 296 alumni and 280 guests attended these and other events on campus. We had never seen that many alumni return to campus for an Alumni Weekend before; it was very exciting and hopefully a sign of greater attendance in years to come. We also saw an increase in alumni giving by the class years celebrating their respective reunions (5-year, 10-year, 15-year and 20-year). I believe it is a combination of reconnecting and learning about the tremendous need for alumni support that contributes to that increase.

There also has been a huge increase in online giving. We are doing much more communication through online media. In addition to email, the IMSA Fund can be found on Facebook (IMSA Fund) and through a philanthropic social networking site called Givezooks (imsa.givezooks.com). In addition, both IMSA and the IMSA Fund can be found on Facebook, and the Facebook IMSA Fund Causes allow Facebook members to make a gift without leaving the site.

IMSA360: What steps has IMSA taken to promote giving and make it easier?

Spuehler: In addition to our online giving presence, we continue to send direct mail to alumni, parents, faculty and staff, alumni parents, and friends two or three times a year. We like to use that opportunity to update everyone on the latest news at IMSA as well as report on how we are spending our unrestricted funds.

Moving forward, we will be introducing Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) to our giving opportunities mix. The EFT option will allow alumni to make a recurring contribution to the IMSA Fund on a monthly basis without having to think about it. By signing up for a $5 or $10 monthly withdrawal from your checking account, you will be contributing $60 or $120 a year to the IMSA Fund. It adds up quickly, and by making those smaller monthly contributions you won’t even miss the money and IMSA will see a greater impact. More information about EFT and other giving opportunities can be found at our Web site, www.imsa.edu/giving.

IMSA360: What are the goals for alumni giving for FY10?

Spuehler: Our alumni participation goal is 18% or 775 individuals, by June 30, 2010. That means we need all of the alumni who made a gift in FY09 to renew their support, plus just over 200 new alumni donors to make their first gift. Remember, it’s not how much, it’s how many, so I hope all of our alumni will make a contribution this year!
Donors Fuel Expansion and Innovation Throughout Illinois

“CoolJams,” “CoolSpots” and “CoolPorts” might sound more like science fiction than classroom learning, but just like science fiction, these technologies will transcend the boundaries of space and time to bring Illinois students and teachers together into a new dimension of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning.

This is just one of many examples of how support provided by donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education continues to help IMSA innovate and lead.

Abbott Fund and Tellabs Foundation Support Leading-Edge Prototype

IMSA students, students and teachers from other Illinois high schools, scientists from Abbott and others interested in the topic will collaborate in a one-of-a-kind pilot environmental chemistry project related to storm water purification. This unique boundless learning opportunity using Web 2.0 technologies is made possible thanks to grants from the Abbott Fund and Tellabs Foundation.

“It thanks to this generous gift from Abbott, IMSA students and teachers will be able to engage other Illinois students and scientists from Abbott in a collaborative innovation network centered around the real-world problem of water purification,” said IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee. “In addition, a grant from the Abbott Fund will enable IMSA to continue its wildly popular online CyberQuiz 4Kids program, that includes challenging online mathematics and science brainteasers and word problems for students throughout Illinois.”

Jennifer Hensley, grassroots organizer for the Sierra Club who serves as an “expert” during a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) unit on water purification in IMSA’s Environmental Chemistry class, said the learning experience is very unique at the college preparatory level.

“I didn’t get a chance to take this type of class until I was in college,” Hensley said. “Having this offered to them at such a young age is really, really great. I congratulate IMSA on that and I think it’s a great effort.”

Collaboration innovation networks will grow using CoolSpots, tech-enabled zones located on the IMSA campus conducive for small group work, and other innovation resources. CoolSpots provide access to video conferencing, online forums, wikis, blogs, immersive online worlds and a searchable database of session recordings and published innovation projects. The three Illinois high schools will help the pilot chemistry project through “CoolJams” (facilitated sessions) that use CoolPorts, portable technology units located at each school and funded by Abbott.

The Tellabs Foundation grant also helps to support IMSA CoolSpots at its Aurora campus and Field Offices in Chicago and the Metro East region, enabling more students and teachers throughout Illinois greater access to innovative technology for collaborative innovation.

“Innovating for our customers drives Tellabs’ success,” said Michael J. Brick, chairman of Tellabs and president of the Tellabs Foundation. “By helping IMSA create opportunities for innovative problem solving, we hope to encourage new solutions to a wide range of challenges facing our communities,” Brick said.

To learn more, visit CoolHub.IMSA.edu.

Private Sector Support Fuels the Greening of IMSA

IMSA is now fertile ground for budding young environmentalists, thanks to the generous broad support of private sector donors.

Whether it is the installation of alternative energy sources on campus (solar-powered laptop charging station, multiple wind generators, bike generator and biodiesel lawn mower), energy seminars, energy audits/improvements of the IMSA campus or the traveling IMSA Energy House for K–8 students throughout Illinois, in any given week IMSA students are stretching their minds, using their imaginations and creating solutions for a greener IMSA and greener world.

In addition, broad private sector support enabled IMSA to install two solar panels on the IMSA campus (see photo right) and provide an inquiry-based residential summer camp on alternative energy for 10th graders.

Looking to the future, the sky is the limit as the IMSA Energy Center provides a place where students can use their talents and passions to implement their new ideas and build upon existing ones.

“The Energy Center is a place where students meet to create tangible products for a more sustainable future for all,” said Branson Lawrence, IMSA science faculty member. Under the leadership of Lawrence, the Energy Center is also igniting budding young engineers and scientists.


To learn more, visit www3.imsa.edu/learning/energycenter.

IMSA Graduate Pearl Phaovisaid

Pearl Phaovisaid ’99 feels a “deep sense of gratitude” to IMSA for setting her future on the right trajectory.

“I reflect on my time at IMSA with a deep sense of gratitude,” she said. “It opened up a lot of doors and a lot of opportunities for me in so many ways.”

Phaovisaid received her commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography. Pearl, a UH60 Blackhawk Pilot, is currently stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence. She donates “a small percentage” of her paycheck to the IMSA Fund every month and has been doing so for the last four years.

“I decided to start giving because of the gratitude I felt toward IMSA during the time of my five-year reunion,” she said. “It was around that time that I realized how much the IMSA community had given to me. It has not been feasible for me to give back through my time, so I made sense to give back financially.”

Pearl says ultimately, the major factor that motivates her to give is the work of the organization itself.

“I give to a number of causes that I believe are doing important work,” she says. “Ultimately, the factor that most moves me to give is the passion I feel for what the organization is doing to create a better world.”

Pearl says giving to the IMSA Fund gives her a sense of connection to IMSA, even though she “cannot physically be there.” She says she is grateful to be able to give something in return for what she has received.

“Faculty and staff at IMSA genuinely cared about my learning and development. I do not think I fully realized it then, but I do now. I benefitted as a student from IMSA and its donors, and now I am glad to have the opportunity to be a donor myself.”
IMSA Opens Chicago and Metro East Field Offices

IMSA now has a permanent presence in Chicago and Metro East following the establishment of Field Offices there to help expand programs and services for teachers and students in these communities. The Field Offices, located at James R. Dolittle East School in Chicago and Lindseywood University–Belleville Campus, will help expand IMSA programs and services for Illinois teachers and students. The Field Offices extend IMSA’s professional development programs for teachers and enrichment programs in mathematics and science for students in local communities. They also serve as central hubs for mathematics and science education by coordinating resources with local organizations that provide community-based math and science enrichment programs.

IMSA’s Field Offices were made possible thanks to many advocates including the Illinois Governor’s Office, Illinois General Assembly, Illinois Board of Higher Education, the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Metro East Region leaders, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and other donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education including a significant anonymous foundation.

Teacher Candidate Institutes Prepare Future STEM Teachers

In collaboration with Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville, National-Louis University, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale and the generous support of The Boeing Company, IMSA is now offering Teacher Candidate Institutes (TCI) to help prepare future science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers.

During the first phase of the TCI, candidates are introduced to IMSA’s approach to mathematics and science teaching and learning by IMSA faculty and staff (sometimes in collaboration with faculty from the partnering university). At this time, they also review and practice-teach the specific curricular content to be taught during the second phase of the program, under the guidance of IMSA mentors.

During the second phase candidates participate in a mentored teaching experience where they provide the instruction and supervision for students involved in one of IMSA’s day programs, featuring a specific STEM topic.

At the end of the program, these future STEM teachers discuss the use of student-centered teaching approaches, presentation techniques, content communication, management proficiency and other teaching skills to help them when they enter the classroom.

IMSA Parents Dr. Matthew and Tracey Rossi

Fostering a Spirit of Giving

Dr. Matthew and Tracey Rossi began donating to the IMSA Fund when their son Nicholas first became a student.

“Because we are so involved in the Parents Association Council and participate in many school activities, we spend a lot of time at IMSA and can witness first hand that the funds are being spent wisely,” they said.

They say they are proud that they have instilled the spirit of giving in their own children.

“They certainly should be supportive of IMSA’s vision and support the Academy to offer the same opportunity to the younger counterparts, and possibly one day even their own offspring,” they said.

“Parents and students should offer not only their time and monetary support, but should also encourage their state legislators to continue to support IMSA in these very challenging financial times.”
SAVE THE DATE
for the Following IMSA Events!

New York City IAA Regional Event  January 23, 2010
Atlanta IAA Regional Event  January 29, 2010
IMSA TALENT Entrepreneurial Contest  February 1, 2010
Austin IAA Regional Event  February 27, 2010
San Francisco IAA Regional Event  April 10, 2010
IMSAloquium  April 28, 2010
Alumni Weekend  July 23-25, 2010


For information on IAA events, visit www.imsa.edu/alumni

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