New Leadership for a New Day

Excellence and Equity

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Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®
Excellence and Equity

As I write this letter I have now been at IMSA for nine days, though by the time you are reading this I will have been here for almost 90 days. I am excited about what I feel I can offer, and of course a bit anxious about the many things I have yet to learn. But leadership and risk taking are necessary at every great organization and I am confident that the fine people of the IMSA community will work with me to achieve continued excellence for our students and programs on the Aurora campus, across the state, and beyond.

Since 90 days have now passed, I ask you to contact me and let me know if I’ve achieved most of my early plan:

• To quickly assess the existing issues of the institution
• To offer the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff a way to team with me and examine IMSA with fresh eyes
• To get to know the people and programs of IMSA
• To take immediate action on our priority tasks
• To begin the search for a new Chief Academic Officer/Principal
• To build public trust through open communication with parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, volunteers, and government and community leaders

In order to accomplish all this, I will have to do an extraordinary job of listening, analyzing, and following through. Above all, we all must understand that IMSA cannot have excellence without equity… and it cannot have equity without excellence. If we are to offer a uniquely challenging education for students talented in the areas of mathematics and science (our first legislative charge from the State of Illinois) and if we are to stimulate further excellence for all Illinois schools in mathematics and science (our second charge), then equity and excellence must go hand in hand. This is at the core of my personal mission and beliefs.

In five to seven years I would like our IMSA community to feel even more proud of what our faculty, students, alumni, and staff have accomplished. I would like IMSA to have international recognition as the premier STEM academy in the world. I would like IMSA to receive state accolades for promoting innovative STEM education for over 80% of all students in Illinois.

For this to happen we must adhere to an old Chinese proverb (loosely translated): “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” And the main thing at IMSA is STEM teaching and learning. Thank you for your trust and commitment!

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.

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Contributing Writers: Mike Abrahamson, Melvin Bacani, Lisa Hellman, John Hoesley ’90, Carolyn Johnson, Christina Kaucnik, Paul Milano, Catherine C. Veal

PHOTOGRAPHY
Courtesy of IMSA/Chris Reader
(unless otherwise noted)
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Campus News
Given your extensive exposure to schools, how is IMSA similar and different from other high schools?
—Rich Busby (staff)

Though it’s still early in my time here, I have certainly seen a few similarities between IMSA and other schools. We have comprehensive courses, sports, and extracurricular activities, for example. If a stranger came upon IMSA, with no explanation, they would say it’s a high school.

In many ways we are definitely more than a high school, though—the courses are more robust and challenging and our SIR component is unique, though there are other high schools that are starting similar programs. Having half of our faculty hold PhDs makes our institution very special, and the level of our laboratories and equipment also surpass what I’ve seen at other schools. I think IMSA has the unique personnel, tools, and mission to transcend the level of teaching and learning you see at typical high schools.

What would you name the autobiography of your life?
—Laurie Sutherland (staff)

This one was tough for me! At first I was going to say A Life Worth Living, and then I thought about it a bit more and now I think that, having dedicated my career to education, I would be happy if it was called A Life Worth Giving.

Did Dr. Torres always know what he was going to be when he grew up? If yes, why? And if no, what made him change his mind and/or do what he does now?
—Catherine Drake (student)

No, I didn’t know. My mother used to tell me she wanted my brother and me to become doctors, and my brother went on to become a medical doctor, but I “rebelled” by telling her I would be a lawyer instead [laughs]. I ended up getting my PhD, though, so I guess I did become a doctor, after all.

In college I tried many different courses, and went through a lot of academic trial and error. I took courses in business, technology, psychology, but I ended up finding my calling in education and earning my master’s in curriculum and instruction, with training and development being very important to me. Once I became involved in schools I decided to get my PhD, and to go on to become a superintendent and now President of IMSA.
I would love to know Dr. Torres’ vision for engaging alums outside of Illinois, and how he understands our impact (career and otherwise) in terms of IMSA’s mission to educate students for both Illinois and the world.

—Chris Tessone (Class of ’00)

We want to bring alumni closer to IMSA, no matter how far from Aurora they are. We will continue engaging alums through out-of-state events and inviting them to come home for Intersession and Alumni Weekend, but we also want to keep in closer contact with those who can’t physically be with us every year. That means we will be looking for more alumni feedback, networking, and volunteer opportunities moving forward.

Since I’ve started here at IMSA, I’ve been overwhelmed by the support alumni have offered to help further the Academy, and I plan to capitalize on their expertise.

I see IMSA’s mission to educate students for the betterment of Illinois and the world as complementary goals. We have alumni excelling at MIT and the University of Illinois, in Silicon Valley and at Fermilab, and we are thankful that our alumni are very conscious about their impact on all of the communities they belong to, including ours. IMSA backs up such a noble mission by graduating students that genuinely want to make Illinois and the world better, and I will say that our best years are yet to come.

I’d like to know how he plans to engage with alumni who ended up outside of STEM in the arts and humanities, and to celebrate those of us who have achievements and accomplishments in those fields.

—Joanna Jordan (Class of ’97)

Between hearing the vast accomplishments of our alumni and spending time with students, I can definitively say that academic giftedness and intellectual passion at IMSA doesn’t begin and end with STEM subjects. We appreciate the pursuits of all our students and alumni and will continue to showcase their accomplishments, whether they are in medicine or screenwriting, technology or music, entrepreneurship or law. Additionally, I’ve heard from many of our humanities-focused alumni that their background in scientific and mathematical thinking has given them a unique, informative background in their fields.

What is your experience with gifted students? What are your goals for IMSA?

—Kevin Maher (IMSA parent)

My first teaching position was at a gifted and talented high school, and when I worked at the Department of Defense Schools from 1995–2000 I worked with specialists in this field to revamp our gifted program. Most recently, I led the expansion of opportunities for gifted students was Superintendent of the U-46 school district, identifying them at a younger age, expanding programs, and catering to students who are gifted in specific areas, such as mathematics or language arts.

I’m still formulating my overarching goals as I’m getting to know IMSA, but I know that we need to become a national and international player in STEM education. We call ourselves internationally recognized, and I believe we can and should become the national and worldwide presence we aspire to be.

We have yet to become what we can be. I remember when I was growing up people would say to me, “you have so much potential” and that use to make me happy, until I realized it’s kind of an insult—they meant that there is more I could be doing now. I wouldn’t say that about IMSA, because there are so many great things that we’re doing now, but I will say that our best years are yet to come.

For the full Q&A visit our IMSA360 website at https://sites.imsa.edu/imsa360/
Stephanie Bernardo ’10, Katja Meyer ’98, Angela McByrd ’08 and Ray Stadt ’93 are all IMSA alumni and are all extending STEM learning to students of every age. They are using their IMSA experience to teach others through inquiry and personalized learning.

Stephanie Bernardo ’10
Stephanie Bernardo is a minority in the STEM field, not only as a female, but as a Filipino, and she’s working hard to change those stats. Stephanie is focused on making minority females the norm in STEM, rather than the exception.

With a varied education experience herself, starting in an urban school in a low-income community, then coming to IMSA, and finally attending Loyola University in Chicago, a Jesuit institution, she soon realized how a 5-digit zip code can determine a student’s education. Her experience at IMSA, where peers came from all types of school districts, demonstrated to her that any student talented in STEM could succeed in it, given the opportunity.

Stephanie was a student teacher just last semester, but now teaches 7th and 8th grade math full-time at South Loop Elementary School in Chicago. The 7th grade class is pre-algebra and the 8th grade class is a gifted class in geometry.

“I taught these geometry students last year, so I know them on a personal level. I try to give them a discovery experience in math as it leaves a better impression on them,” says Stephanie.

“I was really lucky to go to IMSA and have a problem-based learning experience. I now see how I can utilize that for my own students. When I was evaluated, my supervisors liked that I question and use divergent thinking. I know I learned these skills at IMSA,” said Stephanie.

Along with connecting their passions to their talents in STEM, Stephanie advises aspiring educators to embrace questioning and student autonomy in thinking.

Katja Meyer ’98
Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities. Most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.
Climate change is an issue that if we ignore it, it is at our peril. Alumna Katja Meyer is not willing to do that and as Assistant Professor in Environmental and Earth Sciences at Willamette University, in Salem, Oregon, she has chosen the opportunity to teach other young adults how to become engaged citizens on this important issue.

With her BA in geology from Carleton College, a PhD in geosciences from Penn State University and postdoctoral research at Stanford, she was looking for a smaller, liberal arts college where she could focus on teaching and scholarship. Katja wants to engage with her students and give them a personalized experience.

Angela McByrd '08

There are many methods available to help students increase their math abilities, but the one Angela McByrd employs daily with her students is direct and highly effective. Through the Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL) and their Math+ program, Angela administers pre-tests to 3–5th graders and splits students up into groups of four or five depending upon their strengths and weaknesses in math. Then she gives them highly personalized instruction to help them meet standards.

"I've always wanted to teach. I worked with college students and tutored IMSA Excel students. At IMSA I was also able to go in-depth into STEM subjects. That type of learning and those programs fueled my desire to continue teaching," says Angela.

Angela's small student groups split their regular classroom time with their tutoring time. Classroom teachers cannot reach out to every student because of large class sizes. Through AUSL each year, several under-achieving schools are selected and tutoring is implemented to assist students and teachers until standards are met.

By the end of the next school year Angela will have her teaching certificate and wants to have her own classroom. She loves the Chicago area and only left it once to attend Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

Ray Stadt '93

"IMSA's focus on conceptual understanding has gone a long way in my teaching. Although IMSA definitely integrated the mathematics of science, deep conceptual understanding has allowed me to find metaphors and allegories that some of my colleagues may not find as obvious," says Ray Stadt.

Ray, an alumus who teaches chemistry and AP chemistry at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, Illinois, has been refining his teaching style now for 10 years. Although Ray's undergraduate degree is in Physical Education with a concentration in Athletic Training, from Valparaiso University, the district had a need, and he decided to return to school to teach. He felt science was a natural fit, so he focused his energy there.

"The laboratory experiences at IMSA made me understand how powerful hands-on learning can be, but what I underestimated is that not everyone learns effectively when thrown into the inquiry pond and many people need support when they have to approach science in this fashion," added Ray.

Ray also contributes his expertise as a practicing science teacher to help IMSA develop talent and leadership in STEM. He has been an invaluable contributor to IMSA's Problem-Based Learning (PBL) summer programs for teachers. In these programs, he mentors educators both at IMSA and at Benedictine University (BU) where he works with the interns in its Alternative Certification Program (ACP). He also co-facilitated multiple PBL Design Institutes in Illinois and throughout the Midwest, and mentors the interns in BU's ACP program involved with Summer Sleuths.

Ray has also been involved in IMSA Preview Days and served as a reunion coordinator for his 15-year class reunion. In all of this work, he brings his unique perspective based on his classroom experiences as a science teacher and as a learner at IMSA. He was chosen as 1 of only 66 educators in the U.S. as a Master Teacher, which means he will share chemistry lesson plans with other teachers around the nation.

Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are changing the atmosphere in ways that affect the Earth's climate. They are emitted from fossil fuel combustion and a range of industrial and agricultural processes.

The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring.

—American Physical Society

IMSA helped mold Katja's style of teaching. "In many ways, IMSA was a turning point for me to determine what I would do in the future. It helped me think about what science really is, and I learned the scientific process. I didn't just learn facts," said Katja.

At IMSA, Katja realized she could do things she didn't think she could do before. This year she is teaching an introductory level class titled "Earth System Science," and she will teach climate change geology and geochemistry next year. While every student in her class will not become a geologist, Katja wants them to understand the relevance of geology in their everyday lives.

Bonuses content available online at https://sites.imsa.edu/imsa360/
When I speak about the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy and the IMSA Alumni Association in public, I'm reminded that IMSA has a vast group of impassioned, devoted and committed Titans! When I speak one-on-one with IMSA alumni, I hear a number of phrases over and again:

- “I completed my time at IMSA with friendships that will last a lifetime.”
- “IMSA forever instilled in me the lifelong pursuit of learning and inquiry.”
- “What I learned at IMSA still guides me now.”

For many of us, IMSA was the most exhilarating time in our lives. This has been on my mind since Alumni Weekend 2014, where the Charter Class of 1989 celebrated its 25th Class Reunion and record numbers of alumni “came home” for the festivities. It has become so evident to me that our alumni are hungrier than ever to join in the continuing mission of IMSA intellectually, socially and with direct tangible support. As IMSA progresses and steps onward into the next phase, alumni can engage more effectively than ever. If you haven’t yet had the chance to meet or become acquainted with Dr. Torres, our new President, you will this academic year as he, alongside Alumni Relations Coordinator Lisa Hellman, and other Development staff journey with me to our largest alumni cities to talk about IMSA’s strategy for the future. As we continue this progression of introducing Dr. Torres to IMSA alumni, the engagement, participation and support from alumni will be vital. I look forward to talking to many of you this year at alumni get-togethers.

It is with immense pride and privilege that I invite all of you to reconnect with IMSA. Please delve into this issue of IMSA360, and explore the IMSA Alumni Association website at www.imsaalumni.org to discover ways to be involved with IMSA. Join us as we give rise to a greater IMSA and see where bold inquiry leads!

Alumni Weekend 2014 Highlights

More than 300 alumni and their guests, faculty and former faculty converged on campus reliving their IMSA past and catching a glimpse of IMSA’s future this past summer. Pre-reunion, informal activities took place Friday, July 19. On Saturday, Alumni Day consisted of:

- the all-alumni luncheon sponsored by the IMSA Alumni Association (IAA);
- a Q&A session with then President Cathy Veal, Executive Director of Development Paul Milano and Principal Branson Lawrence;
- the IAA Annual Meeting and elections;
- an open house sponsored by the IRC;
- and a few interviews of alumni which are posted on the IMSA YouTube channel.

While guests mingled and ate casual fare, old friends joyfully reunited and new friends were made. Saturday evening reunion classes savored delicious food and drink in various Chicagoland locations. Members of IMSA’s Charter Class ’89 celebrated at the Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort where Cathy Veal and other beloved faculty and staff joined them.

Sunday the inaugural Farewell Brunch took place at the IMSA Cafeteria where Dan Christianson ’11 entertained alumni with his X-Cube invention.

Alumni Weekend 2015 is scheduled for July 17–19, 2015, with class reunions for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010. Email myimsa@imsa.edu if you want to be part of your class’s reunion planning committee.

Have a question for us?
630-907-5040, myimsa@imsa.edu
or www.imsaalumni.org
SIGRID ELLIS ‘90, RAMEZ NAAM ‘90, AND MICHAEL DAMIAN THOMAS ‘92 were all nominated for the 2014 Hugo Awards, awards for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy.

B. SCOTT GAUDI ’91, astronomy professor at Ohio State, was appointed holder of The Thomas Jefferson Chair for Discovery and Space Exploration in the Office of Academic Affairs effective September 1, 2014–August 31, 2019. The Thomas Jefferson Chair supports a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences studying grand-scale space exploration, specifically work concentrating on the search for extrasolar planets with the potential to support life.

TRISHA JUNG ’91 married Ken Dunn on April 19, 2014.

MICHAEL MCCOOL ’91 is currently penning a science fiction book titled Sleepernet.

SARA A. GOEKING ’92 recently served as lead author of a comprehensive assessment of the status and trends in New Mexico’s forests. Several federal and academic researchers contributed to this report, which was featured in several New Mexico news outlets.

CHELSY HOPPER ’92 married Joshua Buffat on August 2, 2014.

JULIA STAMBERGER ’92 and husband Todd Bamberg welcomed daughter Frederika Xyla Ray on September 4, 2014.

ELIZABETH R. KARNIK ’95 and her husband are expecting baby number three, a girl, in December 2014.

TIM MEYER ’92 was named Fermilab’s Chief Operating Officer effective July 1, 2014. He previously served as the head of strategic planning and communication at TRIUMF, Canada’s national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics.

ERIK VOLKMAN ’03 and wife Michele welcomed son Logan Alexander on July 11, 2014.

NICHOLAS LILOVICH ’04 married Sruti Balakrishnan on April 19, 2014 at the Morton Arboretum.

IVETTE (IVY) BECKER ’08 and Cody Shoultz were married on October 5, 2013. Included in the celebration were attendants MONICA BHATTACHARYA ’08 and JONATHON BEKKER ’06, as well as guests JESSICA MEISMER ’08 and BIRCE ONAL ’08.

ERIC HULTGREN ’08 and his wife Sarah were married on May 17, 2014 in Kickapoo, IL. Many IMSA alumni and faculty were in attendance to help the couple celebrate.

IN MEMORIAM

IMSA and numbers seemed to be forever entwined. I graduated from IMSA 25 years ago and I wondered on that day if I would ever return. Ten years later I was back, as a member of the Board of Directors of the IMSA Fund. Now I am writing to you with only a few months left before I step down as the President of the Board after four years at the helm and having seen many changes.

When I joined the Board 10 years ago, very few alumni and parents were donating to the school. Now almost half of the 5,000 alumni have made a gift. Two-thirds of current parents donated last year. Roughly $2.5 million in donations came in for a record-setting year. Our endowment was almost non-existent four years ago and soon it will surpass $5 million.

Those are all amazing numbers. But to me they generate feelings—feelings of pride, of change, of enthusiasm, of trust, and of partnership. And they feel like the future.

We have an exciting future with our new president, Dr. José Torres, as you've read on the previous pages. I was at IMSA the very first day the school opened as a new student with the first president, Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall. And now my excitement is renewed again as Dr. Torres is questioning, pushing for excellence, bringing in new ideas, working to preserve the best of what we already learned works, and reinvigorating students, faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers to reimagine IMSA all over again.

I now know that you don’t graduate from IMSA and ever really “leave.” You stay in touch through classmates, teachers, emails, the website, Facebook, and sometimes, like me, there are volunteer opportunities. So even though IMSA taught me a LOT about numbers, and it is a big part of what I do for a living today, ultimately I have come to appreciate my feelings for IMSA the most. And I feel good about its future.

I feel very proud of what we have accomplished, but there is still so much more to do. My hope is that my successor, with your support, will bring fresh ideas that will surpass the achievements of the last four years. IMSA is a great institution at a critical junction. I hope that you, Dr. Torres, my successor and the entire IMSA community provide the creativity and energy we need to help IMSA reach its potential.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the President of your Board of Directors these past four years. I’m humbled by the faith you placed in me and look forward to finding new ways to help IMSA going forward.

What is the IMSA Fund?

The IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that raises donations from alumni, parents, friends, faculty/staff, businesses and foundations and uses that money to support the programs and projects of IMSA.
IMSA and IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education
Revenues and Expenses July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

Revenues
State $18,413,400
Program and Student Fees $2,675,600
Gifts and Grants $2,473,200
Prior Year Gifts and Grants $110,900
Total Revenues $23,673,100

Expenses*
Residential Academic Program $9,311,200
Residential Student Activities Programs $2,066,000
Extension Programs $2,399,100
Technology $1,630,000
Occupancy $3,736,900
Administration $2,063,300
Fundraising, Alumni and Marketing $1,081,700
Retained Gifts and Grants $1,384,900
Total Expenses $23,673,100

Current Year Gifts & Grants
State and Federal Grants $33,000
Alumni $1,147,000
Parents $302,000
Friends $125,000
Faculty and Staff $24,000
Corporations and Foundations $842,000
Total $2,473,000

Endowment and reserve funds invested, held, and pledged for the IMSA Fund:
$6,129,300

Audited Financials available upon request

*Expenses in detail
Residential Academic Program: faculty, library, counseling, nurse, etc.
Residential Student Activities Programs: co-curricular, sports, clubs, meals, trips, etc.
Extension Programs: serving students and teachers across Illinois and beyond with professional development and math and science enrichment
Technology: student housing, utilities, maintenance, grounds, including extension programs
Administration: Fundraising, Alumni, Marketing and Communications, and Parent Relations
Retained Gifts and Grants: per donors for FY14 and transfers to Endowment

IMSA360 ANNUAL REPORT FY14
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Thank you to the many donors who supported the IMSA Fund in the 2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014).

The Kaleidoscope Society
The Kaleidoscope Society honors donors whose lifetime giving has reached $10,000 or more.

These donors are also prominently displayed on the donor wall inside IMSA’s main entrance. We thank you for your consistent and significant support of IMSA and its students.

Names listed in italics are new to the Kaleidoscope Society in fiscal year 2014.

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The Harris Family Foundation

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Thank you to our corporations and foundations for your gifts to the IMSA Fund during the 2013–14 fiscal year. With your support, IMSA’s innovative programs that foster imagination and inquiry served thousands of students and teachers throughout Illinois and beyond!

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“I enjoy working alongside IMSA students. We learn a little about each other while doing a project that makes a difference. Experiences like these provide me with great confidence that our future is in good hands.”

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An education at IMSA offers far more than conventional honors courses. Our talented faculty members offer IMSA students the opportunity to study with acclaimed scientists, scholars and entrepreneurs. Students explore questions of their own, champion their ideas for product development and make significant leadership contributions. The support the IMSA Fund receives from donors helps us continue this important work. By donating to the IMSA Fund, your gift helps guarantee IMSA’s future for the next generation of STEM talent.

Because of generous people like you, the IMSA Fund can:
• Assist in student recruitment, especially in under-represented populations and areas
• Upgrade campus facilities to create a more comfortable living and learning environment
• Enrich the “home away from home” experience for IMSA students by providing monetary support for prom, graduation, Intersession and more.

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Have you ever wondered how your class compares to others in terms of giving back to IMSA? During the 2013–14 fiscal year, alumni from every class year made a donation to the IMSA Fund, collectively resulting in 15% alumni participation. Congratulations to the charter class of 1989 for rising to the challenge to win this year’s class competition!

Please give each year and encourage your classmates to do the same. Every gift counts.

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“IMSA has afforded me a remarkable number of opportunities for educational and career growth. Though I did not realize it at the time, the things that I learned at IMSA will continue to reap dividends throughout my career. I give back to IMSA with my time and finances, because I want others to have an opportunity to experience such a diverse and challenging educational environment.”

—Reginald Champagne ’02
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—Anil Thacker and Vidya Kotecha of Normal, Illinois, are parents of Yash, a senior at IMSA
Thank You for Answering the Call

Donations raised through the phonathon fund programs to directly support IMSA students and urgent needs of the academy. Your support is greatly appreciated! The Fall Phonathon runs through December 18; Spring 2015 dates to be announced.
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Tributes are designed for a variety of uses at IMSA, yet they all have a shared purpose—to memorialize or honor a family member, friend, colleague or group.

Honoree name in *italics*

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Jonathan Wilson ’96

Adrienne Winans ’99

Alyssa L. Winans ’08

Mateusz Wojtaszek ’14

Jason Wong ’92

Linus Wong ’99

Plus D. Wong ’01

Grace Woo ’02

Kaitana ’08 and Jerard Woods

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Johnny Wu ’14

Joshua Wu ’14

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Tributes are designed for a variety of uses at IMSA, yet they all have a shared purpose—to memorialize or honor a family member, friend, colleague or group.

**Honoree name in italics**

**Gifts were received in Loving Memory of:**

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Stephanie Jayne ’90 and Kevin Narimatsu ’89
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Kislen Ann Lee ’03

**Rebecca D.G. Wassell** ’94 and
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Thank You Alumni Volunteers

Nearly 200 alumni, from every graduating class, generously gave nearly 3,000 hours of their time and talent to IMSA during the 2013–2014 academic year.

These alumni volunteers served as mentors to current students, recruited prospective students, planned special events, taught Intersession, served on the IMSA Alumni Association cabinet, spoke at assemblies and many other events. Alumni volunteers also provided strategic counsel to the IMSA Board of Trustees, the IMSA Fund Board of Directors, Admissions Student Review Committee and more.

IMSA would like to extend a sincere thank you to the many alumni who shared their personal and professional time and resources over the past school year. Your participation was invaluable.

We tried to include everyone who was involved as an alumni volunteer this year on this list. Our apologies if we inadvertently missed someone. If so, please let us know so we can update our records! Email myimsa@imsa.edu or call (630)907-5679.

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Samuel Berger
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While we carefully prepare donor lists, we recognize that errors may have occured. Please accept our apology if your name is not properly represented and contact the Development Office at (630)-907-5040) or email giving@imsa.edu so that our records can be corrected.
Alumni Awards

Board of Trustees Alumni Awards Recipients 2014

In 2007 the Board of Trustees of IMSA began granting the Alumni Awards, not only to honor worthy recipients, but also to inspire students and alumni. Two IMSA alumni are recipients of this year’s Board of Trustees Alumni Awards. Steve Crutchfield ‘93 is the recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award and Melvin Bacani ‘90 is the Alumni Titan Award recipient.

Steve Crutchfield was appointed the Executive Vice President and Head of U.S. Options at NYSE Euronext in August 2012 to create a “more integrated and efficient operation,” and became CEO and a member of the Board of Directors of NYSE Amex Options LLS, all accomplished before he turned 40. Taking a lead role in engaging members of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Steve provides counsel on regulatory issues facing all exchanges and their constituents in the context of the Dodd-Frank Act. Steve exemplifies significant civic and community contributions with his fundraising involvement for St. Mary’s Hospital for Children, and his fundraising involvement and engagement with IMSA. Steve attended the University of Chicago Booth School of Business where he received an MBA with High Honors, Econometrics and Statistics/Analytic Finance in 2009.

Melvin Bacani has been an active and engaged volunteer with IMSA and the IMSA Alumni Association (IAA) since 2009, when he first joined the IAA cabinet and took the lead role in planning his 20-year reunion for his class. Melvin’s leadership has elevated and empowered the volunteer leaders of the IAA, and has set the stage for more meaningful and strategic activities between alumni, students and IMSA. Last year Melvin helped start a new commodities firm, Leeward Pointe Capital, as the CIO, and the firm recently merged with Typhon Capital Management. Melvin also took the additional role of CTO/Director of Operations at Typhon Access (part of the Typhon family). He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1994 with a BS in Pure Mathematics.

2014 Board of Trustees Alumni Awards Ceremony

IMSA will recognize these two esteemed alumni at an on-campus assembly December 2, 2014. We are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Alumni Awards, so visit www.imsaalumni.org or email lhellman@imsa.edu by January 31st to see your classmates recognized for their achievements!
25% OF SENIORS NATIONAL MERIT AND SEVEN STUDENTS NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SEMIFINALISTS
The National Merit® Scholarship Program recently named 48 semifinalists from IMSA in its 2015 competition. Approximately 25% of IMSA’s senior class were recognized as semifinalists, in comparison to less than one percent of the average school to enter the nationwide competition. Additionally, seven IMSA seniors qualified as semifinalists in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program, an academic competition for African-American high school students.

IMSA TOP FIVE FINALIST IN NATIONWIDE NASA COMPETITION
An IMSA team led by Science Faculty Dr. Eric Hawker was one of five teams of high school student engineers that made it to the final round in a competition that built and tested radiation shield designs for NASA’s new Orion spacecraft.

IMSA SOPHOMORE AND POWER PITCH WINNER NAMED 2 OF 15 GOOGLE SCIENCE FAIR GLOBAL FINALISTS
Pranav Sivakumar, IMSA Sophomore, and Trisha Prabhu, IMSA TALENT Power Pitch competition winner, were two of only fifteen Global Finalists selected from the thousands of entrants to the 2014 Google Science Fair. Sivakumar’s project used quasars to study the future of the universe and Prabhu developed and tested software that reduces teen cyberbullying.

RESIDENCE HALLS UNDERGO MAJOR RENOVATION, SCIENCE LABS NEXT
IMSA renovated all seven of its residence halls this summer thanks to a $6.26 million investment by the State of Illinois. The residence halls feature new siding and windows, AC/heating units in every room, and a “face lift” for the exteriors. The renovation for the upstairs science labs have also begun, having secured $3.85 million in funding from a public-private partnership between the state and innovative companies.
Save The Date
FOR THE FOLLOWING IMSA EVENTS

Alumni Weekend 2015
July 17–19, 2015
If you want to join your class reunion planning committee, contact mymsa@imsa.edu

Alumni Regional Events
Meet the President
Dr. Torres will be traveling across the country this upcoming year to meet you!
Watch your emails and Facebook for upcoming cities and dates.

IMSA360 Goes Green
Help the IMSA360 magazine go green! If we have your current email address, you will
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