Knowledge. Your passport to the world.

IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education

2017 Annual Report
from the fund board president

Jacob Plummer '96
IMSA Fund Board President

A few years ago, a past president of the IMSA Fund Board, John Hoesley, called me and said "I'd like you to join us," I told him "I've never heard of the Board – what do you do?" And he said, "We raise money, we open doors, and we support IMSA."

It was easy to say yes. As an alum, many of my closest friends are people I met on campus. And, IMSA gave me opportunities I hadn’t even imagined. I joined the Board out of gratefulness. However, I’ve stayed on the board for two other reasons and these are reasons that might also matter to you.

The best thing about joining the board was having a way to connect with the Academy. Today, I regularly meet students and faculty who have incredible passion for teaching and learning. One student sat next to me at a dinner nearly two years ago and I now meet with her every time I’m on campus and have seen her interests in science and public policy come together. I get to hear the vision of the Academy president, Dr. Jose Torres, and the Academy’s Board of Trustees as they work to re-create and re-imagine IMSA to be an ethical global leader. These are the people changing how learning is done, both as students, and as leaders, and it’s a privilege to lend them a hand.

The second thing I love from serving on the board is meeting other Board Members who care about IMSA for the same reasons I do. Here’s a funny thing – many of them did not go to IMSA themselves. But they believe in the mission. Our last president of the IMSA Board, Ross Hemphill, said in a previous letter about IMSA: “Our state needs for this to happen. Our entire country needs for this to happen. IMSA really is that important to all of us.” Our Vice President of Finance, Glenn Rippie, told me succinctly as we finished a meeting “IMSA is the school I never had.”

I see how the donations make a real difference. I judge business plan proposals at a pitch competition open to all regional middle school and high school students. I recently took a tour of the IMSA campus – created in Virtual Reality - designed by students with equipment funded by donors to the Scott Swanson Fund. And I do all of that in IN2, the Inquiry and Innovation Lab created and funded by a lead gift from my classmate, Steve Chen ’96 and generous support from Tellabs.

After joining the board, I learned for the first time of thousands of professional development workshops led by Dr. Storm Robinson’s outreach division at IMSA - impacting students and teachers across Illinois.

Like all of us, I am grateful for the funding the State of Illinois provides for IMSA. Carl Sagan said IMSA was a gift from the people of Illinois to the human future – and it is. But our community has a role too. The contributions of all our donors, our Chicago companies and foundations – great supporters like Ball Horticultural Company, Boeing, BP, Caterpillar Foundation, ComEd, Dart Foundation, EcoLab, Hansen-Furnas Foundation, Harris Family Foundation, Nicor Gas, NOAA, Pentair, Sodexo, and Tellabs Foundation to name just a few. Please see the story about Dr. Ian Gibbons’ life and major gift in honor of his grandchildren on page 4.

In 2017, the IMSA Fund provided over $2M+ to expand support for IMSA – that’s a 10% boost over regular IMSA operating funds. In 2018 we aim to do more. This spring, we are sponsoring the first “IDEAS Award,” a grant program for students, recent alumni, staff, and faculty, to pitch ideas they’d like to pursue that would grow their educational experience and advance UN Sustainability Goals. We’re supporting the best ideas – and we invite everybody reading this to join us. In June, IMSA is hosting the International Science Fair, held for the first time in the United States, with students, teachers and administrators from 20 different countries. We are a proud supporter.

I invite you to connect (or re-connect) to IMSA and help us in our mission of raising contributions to support programs and services for IMSA students and staff as well as thousands of Illinois students and educators.
The world needs a diverse STEM and entrepreneurial workforce that solves problems not yet identified with technology that has yet to be invented. That’s why here at IMSA, we focus our efforts on teaching young people creative ways to problem solve using the arts, humanities, and world languages, in addition to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Your financial donations allow us to forge new partnerships that expand IMSA’s reach worldwide and offers our students and faculty unique experiences propelling the creation of knowledge and discoveries as innovators and critical thinkers.

We are grateful to those who support and believe in our bid to host the 14th International Student Science Fair (ISSF). Through generous contributions to the campaign, we are poised to hold the event for the first time in the United States on the IMSA campus in Aurora, Illinois from June 27–July 1, 2018. ISSF 2018 serves as a launching pad for us as we seek to nurture and refine a curriculum that teaches problem solving skills guided by the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

I hope you take great pride in our highly acclaimed and talented Academy students, the thousands of Illinois’ children we influence through our award-winning STEM enrichment programs, the dedicated teachers we engage through our powerful professional development and STEM curricula, and the first of its kind IN2, The Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation and Inquiry.

Please join us in helping to position IMSA as a recognized global leader and catalyst in equity and excellence in STEM teaching and learning, innovation and entrepreneurship.

from the IMSA president

José M. Torres, PhD
IMSA President

from the IMSA board chair

Erin W. Roche, PhD ’89
IMSA Board of Trustees Chair

“There are likely to be those few who create new intellectual worlds, cure a dreaded human ailment, or in some other way significantly influence life on our planet. Our philosophy will be to treat our charges as if each one is capable of this extraordinary achievement.”

These are the words of Dr. Leon Lederman, internationally renowned high-energy physicist and one of the founding fathers of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. They are a powerful reminder of the importance of the work of IMSA. We are fortunate to have alumni and friends that share in this legacy and conviction.

It is an honor to work with Dr. Torres and the IMSA Fund for Advancement to identify IMSA’s immediate and long term needs. We feel confident that through the unwavering, philanthropic support of our donors, we will secure a bright future for IMSA and the world. As a proud alumnus, I am looking forward to working together to advance the mission of IMSA and ensuring excellence in STEM innovation for generations to come.

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June 28, 2017

I am writing you because my granddaughter Malia Wenny and my grandson Jackson Gibbons attended IMSA during the period 2009-2013. It has brought me great pleasure to see how their time at IMSA has helped them develop into resilient, curious, and hard-working young people with a passion for creative engagement with the world. I am very appreciative of how IMSA’s teachers, residential counselors, administrators, coaches and staff work together to create such a supportive and yet challenging community.

Last month I was fortunate to receive the news that my career in life sciences research has been recognized by the Shaw Foundation in Hong Kong, who awarded me (together with my colleague Ronald Vale) the 2017 Shaw Prize in Life Sciences and Medicine. I would like to make a donation to IMSA out of the funds I will receive for the prize as a way to thank the institution for the role it played in my family’s education and for continuing to provide such a quality experience for students in the future.

– Ian Gibbons
Support from the IMSA Fund helped the IMSA Chicago Allies program continue its work in both the Bronzeville and Englewood communities of Chicago. IMSA Allies is a youth leadership and STEM development program that trains high school students to be teachers and group leaders who deliver inquiry-based, hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities (STEM) in the community. Chicago Allies teens develop facilitation, presentation, and workforce readiness skills and lead Funshops and science demonstrations at the Miles Davis Magnet Academy in Englewood during the school year and at another partner site in Chinatown in the summer.

The benefits of this kind of near peer teaching model are many, extending to both the near-peer teacher—our Allies—and the students engaged in learning. Allies acquire valuable teaching skills and an increased awareness of the important role of “teaching” in most careers. Additionally, Allies further their comprehension and assimilation of STEM concepts due to the need to strengthen their own understanding of the material prior to the teaching session. For the learner, the presence of a near-peer teacher can promote a more relaxed learning environment, thus improving the willingness of students to ask questions and to take risks. Additionally, studies suggest that near-peer teaching of this kind can help at risk students otherwise unlikely to pursue STEM fields remain engaged—when students are taught by teachers with whom they can relate they begin to see themselves as future scientists and mathematicians.

“My favorite part is that I get to build a relationship with each student and the other Allies that I work with.”
– Amari Holliday, Perspectives IIT Academy 11th grader

“The Allies program has increased my confidence and skills as a leader, and has made me love teaching too. Seeing kids get excited about what I’m teaching them is the best feeling ever.”
– David Wells, Perspectives IIT Academy 12th grader

“I like it when the Allies come because we get to do cool science things”
– Rasha, grade 3

“I liked how the teachers didn’t just tell me what to do. They helped me use my own brain to figure it out” – Anthony, grade 5
IMSA’s Professional Field Services provides professional development and curricula to the teachers of Illinois and beyond. One of its spotlight programs, IMSA Fusion, continues to serve hundreds of educators and thousands of children throughout the state of Illinois with hands-on, minds on STEM enrichment experiences. Two new IMSA Fusion curricula were developed this year: “What’s the Story, Data?” for grades 4-5 and “Mars: Manifest Destiny” for grades 6-8.

“What’s the Story, Data?” focuses on the fact that information is all around us and constantly being generated. “Big data” concepts of volume, variety, and velocity will be explored. Students will create a unique data visualization to convey the story of data they collect. Finally, the data will be critically analyzed to test the validity of claims. Students will explore how data can be manipulated to misrepresent a claim.

In the Mars curriculum, students will consider the enormous challenge of planning a permanent, sustainable colony on Mars. To do so, they will explore gravity and orbital mechanics, the environmental conditions on Mars, and spacecraft hardware currently in development. They will also participate in citizen science projects, analyzing actual imagery from Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and other platforms to apply engineering design principles to propose their own spacecraft hardware. Students will apply project management techniques to develop their own mission architecture.

The development of the Mars: Manifest Destiny curriculum was partially funded through a grant from the Boeing Corporation in an effort to also focus on the Metro East (St. Louis area) region of Illinois. Portions of this curriculum were featured at the 24th Annual Space Exploration Educators Conference in February.
IN2: Fostering Ideas, Producing Innovators

The small IMSA computer lab, lovingly called “IN1” staged the formative programs and staff for the new innovation center until fall 2016 when IMSA’s innovation and entrepreneurship team moved in to the new 6,400 square foot IN2, Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry. Over the course of three years, $2 million dollars was raised for the innovation center seeded by a lead gift from IMSA alumnus and co-founder of YouTube, Steve Chen.

The generosity of the IMSA family; alumni, parents and staff combined with corporations and foundations helped IMSA realize Illinois’ first secondary school innovation center. The IN2 ribbon-cutting ceremony paired with IMSA’s 30th anniversary and completion of the new IMSA wing science labs was held on March 30, 2017 with IN2 namesake Steve Chen on hand for the ribbon cutting honors.

IN2 FY17 Program Highlights:

- Hosting the Illinois Department of Public Health “Get the Lead Out” Hackathon to reduce childhood lead poisoning in Illinois;
- Running 4 summer programs (entrepreneurship and makerspace) for 90 middle school students;
- Executing a partnership with ComEd to fund Energy Center programs: “Green Apple Day of Service,” Power UP! an IMSA faculty/staff energy project seed fund and an IN2 Idea Bar sponsorship;
- Hosting 3 pilots: one for IN2 external student memberships, one for spring IN2 FunShops and one for LINkubator (area startups);
- Partnering with Northern Illinois University and 6 local high schools for Teen STEM Cafe, funded by sponsor Caterpillar and attracting over 100 area youth.
- Establishing the IN2 mentoring office, sponsored by First National Bank;
- IN2 project teams launched in areas like virtual reality and public speaking with IN2 now a physical space for LEAD SocEnt teams to continue working after sophomore year.
BP has 74,000 employees in more than 70 countries and is fully aware of the connection between knowledge and global opportunities. With more than 3,500 employees in the Chicagoland/NW Indiana area, the region is also home to BP’s third-largest employee base in the world.

That local footprint and global outlook makes BP a natural supporter of IMSA and the company is extremely excited to help IMSA host this year’s International Student Science Fair – bringing some of the world’s most innovative science leaders of the future to Illinois to showcase their knowledge, skill and passion.

All it takes is one visit to IMSA to see what this “incubator” is creating – a space for students to thrive in a unique environment and provide them with the building blocks they will need to be the next generation of thinkers, problem solvers, and leaders.

Like many industries, BP knows that the energy industry is changing faster than at any time in our lifetime. The energy mix is shifting toward lower carbon sources, driven by technology advances and growing environmental concerns. In BP, we believe we will help advance this transition, and our business will be transformed by it.

But it can’t be done without fresh ideas, fresh perspectives and fresh talent. IMSA students as well as the other participants in the ISSF are yet another example of how knowledge will truly enhance our global opportunities, including in the energy sector.

“BP’s commitment to STEM is about inspiring and supporting the next generation of innovators,” said Andrew Simpson, head of Global Business Services at BP America’s offices in Naperville, Illinois. “That’s what makes our years-long partnership with IMSA such a good fit, because that’s what IMSA does every day with its students.”
Many alumni give back to their alma mater for many reasons. Some designate their gifts to go to specific programs or areas of focus that have meaning to them, while others direct their generosity to the Academy’s greatest needs. Still others are inspired to give in ways that make an immediate impact on everyday life for IMSA students. This was the case for the “Buy a Bus Campaign”. What started as an idea from two IMSA alumni, the “Buy a Bus Campaign” began as a way to give back to the current and future students of IMSA that would impact student’s quality of life.

Replacing the 30 year old fleet of buses and vans would ensure that students would be able to attend athletic contests, academic events, volunteer activities and trips to the store safely and securely. The campaign raised over $4,000.

Many of the IMSA alumni that supported the campaign shared why they believe it is so important to give back to the school.

“When I embarked on my journey to attend IMSA, I thought I would receive a “good” education in a unique environment. At 13, I had no way of knowing what IMSA would offer me throughout my college experience and beyond. I was able to realize that my time at IMSA had provided me with the tools to learn how to think. IMSA taught me about independence, other cultures and life experiences, both in and out of the classroom. Supporting the IMSA Fund through donations is of utmost importance so that IMSA can continue to offer students an experience in educational excellence.”

– Kristen ’97

“We all want to make the world a better place. I might not have amazing research to present nor inventions to showcase, but this much I can do - I can support IMSA with my time and also with gifts that can make impacts in many ways, such as the Buy a Bus Campaign. While those old IMSA vans that served the early classes did the job, current students won’t have to struggle with climbing over each other!”

– Brian Cudiamat ’96 IMSA Alumni Association President
### Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

#### Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Summary*

**July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

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<th>Revenues</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<td>Programs and Student Fees</td>
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<td>Gifts and Grants</td>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations from State Resources</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Sources of Financial Resources</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$17,732,864</strong></td>
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<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Student Activities Programs</td>
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<td>Extension Programs</td>
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<td>Technology</td>
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<td>Occupancy</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and Communications; Alumni and Parent Relations; Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$22,435,777</strong></td>
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<th>Operating Revenue</th>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Operating Agreement</td>
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<td>Other Operating Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
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<th>Net Position</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<td>Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>End of Year</td>
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<th>Operating Expenses</th>
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<td>Academy Support</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Operating Agreement</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,714,657</strong></td>
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<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Contribution Advances</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Net Pledges Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,447,016</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,246,658</strong></td>
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*Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy financials are unaudited*
IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education Donors

Titans - $100,000 +
Bruce and Barbara Tietz

Founders Circle - $50,000 +
The Boeing Company (Saint Louis)
Paul Galvin Memorial Foundation Trust

Trailblazers - $25,000 +
AbbVie Foundation
BP America Inc.
ComEd, An Exelon Company
Helen Thom Edwards Charitable Trust
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Samuel M. Cherry Memorial Charitable Trust
Telabs Foundation

Pioneers - $10,000 +
Angie Tuglus '94 and Mark McCarthy '93
Braed Sneed
Caterpillar Inc.
Cathy and Bill Veal
Charles Ballowe '97
Dr. and Mrs. José M. Torres
Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall
E. Glenn and Rachel E. Rippie
First National Bank Of Omaha
Michael Suh '97
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lisitza
Richard R. Tung '93
Ross and Joyce Hemphill
The Crown Family Philanthropies
The Harris Family Foundation
The Sverbenski Family
Valay H. Shah '04
William & Kari Foote Family Charitable Fund

Benefactors - $5,000 +
Anonymous
Enna Weng
Hansen-Furnas Foundation, Inc.
Jacob R. Plummer '96
Jay Porter and David Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keiser
Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw
Robert '89 and Ginger Chang
Ronjon Paul '89
Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc.
Wayne Zhong '04
Wells Fargo Foundation

President's Society - $2,500 +
Aaron Thompson '99 and
Marina Skelley '99
Anonymous Class of '89 and Spouse
Apisinta Lertratanakul '93 and Alex Chang
Aurora Rotary Club Foundation
Barry Schnorr '98
Ben Hamilton (Gertzfield) '97 and
William Strickland Hamilton
Dart Foundation
David Kung '89
Dillon Foundation
George and Elizabeth Phillips-Sorich
J. Oriolf & Associates, INC
Jason Chapman Leake '97
Jeff '00 and
Lacey '01 (Langhout) Margolis
John and Brooke Peoples
John B. Randall '97 and Brook Haley
John Koval '05
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Kurt Revis '91
Matt Pritchard '93
Michael H. Kim '93
Patricia B. Elmore, Ph.D and
Donald E. Elmore, Sr.
Paul and Susan Rodriguez
Ramesh and Usha Koganti
Ray and Barbara Herr
Salmon Unlimited Conservation and Charitable Trust
Sauger Maripuri '90 and Megha Maripuri
Stephen Paige '00
Winjie Tang Miao '94 and Darryl Miao

Innovators - $1,000 +
Algi Hill and Sylvia Stein
Allan An-Li Ho '92 and Janet A. Lee '95
Amanda Leonard Shanbaum '96
Andrew '00 and Elizabeth Hoesley
Andrew Surasky and Gloria Ysasi-Diaz
Anonymous
Ash Morgan '94
Aswini Das and Ramamani Gundiahal
Aziz and Wendy Ashpahani
Barbara A. Graham
Bin Mu and Haolin Yan
Bob and Sarah Dann
Brandon Schlessinger '99
Brian A. Sebby '96
Brian M. Grunkemeyer '94
Bud and Victoria Bergie
Carlos J. Ordonez '02
Carlos and Claudia Revilla
Charles and Denise Yager
Christopher T. Sukhaphadhana '97
Cindy and Paul Flynn
City of Aurora
Catherine Edwards '99
Cris and Kimberly Downey
Darrel J. Saldanha M.D. '02
Dave and Gina Zager In Memory of
Scott Zager '06
David A. Knoll '93 and Lora Knoll
Dr. Erin Roche '89
Dr. James Herzog and
Ms. Susan Sanders
Dr. Steven J. Zeitman
Frederick W. Chen '93
Gabriel L. Black '93 and Meredith Black
Gary & Jolie-Qunfeng Lu Schulze D.B.A.
Lu & Schulze International School
Gerard and Elizabeth Rickert
Harry and Theressa Stephenson
Hongyu Teng and Ying Chen
Ilya Nepomnyashchikh '90
Irene Xiong Chen '10
James N. Hallick '94 and Chulee
Santilukka Hallick '94
Jason Yang '96
Jeff and Catherine Reiter
Jenifer Fernandes
Jennifer LeClair Townsend '06
Jerome Budzik '95
Joe and Jane Hudgins
John and Clarissa Rhode
Joseph '94 and Julie Liu
Joshua and Vicki Gillman
Julie H. Park '01
Julie Y. Namkung Memorial Fund
Justin Ehrine '96
Kathy Rink '89 and Mike Holm
Kevin Arasi '06
Keith Weinstein '99
Keith Wulffraut
Keri and Maria Choi
Kyle Schirmann '08
Laura Janine Sharpless '05
Lauren R. Kozak '01
Linda and Christopher Ziffer
Lisa M. Smith '90 and Dustin Smith
Manish and Jaimini Patel
Mark Kovach and Rafaat Padaria
Matt Hellige '96
Matthew D. Carter '07
Maung and Mary Anne Tin
Menon Bender Family Charitable Fund

Ambassadors - $500 +
Abhijit Bhattacharya and Ilona Sengupta
Adam M. Theres '93 and Rachael Theros
Alexander C. Templeton
Alex Limson
Amanda Wang '18
AmazonSmile
Amy Alcuff Sohl '89 and David Sohl
Amy Downey '89 and Phil Gartner
Amy Peterson '04
Amy Wang Prosperity Mortgage Co
Anita Prasad Schadu '95
Anne Weitekamp '14
Anonymous
Arkalgud and Jayotika Ramaprasad
Arthur Wojtowicz Wit '02
Benjamin Cooper '16
Beth and Tom Rasmussen
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