

Good News

September 19, 2018

Students

34 IMSA Students have been named National Merit semi-finalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring.

Amit Somalwar '19 donated the money earned by his Better Minds Prep tutoring business this summer to the IMSA Fund. This generous donation will help purchase equipment for the B Wing Science Labs.

Sophomores Shivani Venkatraman, Ahana Narayanan and Manasvi Thumu advanced to the 16th Annual eCYBERMISSION Competition. The team, Mission WaterSmart was named as a National Finalist and received the 2018 STEM-In-Action Grant. Mission WaterSmart created a device that attaches to a faucet and automatically heats water to a comfortable temperature as soon as the faucet is opened, drastically reducing the amount of water waste.

IMSA Soccer players Shayna Provine '18 and Abby Hutter '19 were named 1st Team All-Conference in the Northeastern Athletic Conference. Isabella Ginnett '18 and Rylie Meek '19 were named 2nd Team.

Ray Shang '20 and Allen Chen '19 placed in the Top 20 in the nation at the American Regions Mathematics League competition, aka the World Series of Math. Allen Chen placed 13th overall.

Jayda Yancey '19 and Vincent McKibben '19 were recipients of the 2018 NAACP Youth Leadership Awards.

Suchet Kumar '19 for won first place in Math Kangaroo's National Annual Math Olympiad.

Aimee Nicole Van den Berg '18, Rebecca Ellington '19 and Daniel Soto '19 were awarded National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarships to study Russian in Estonia this past summer.

Rishi Modi '18 received a Commendation from Aurora Mayor, Richard Irvin for his exemplary work in winning the Celebrating High School Innovators competition. His innovation, GoGo Riders, is a ride sharing service that allows customers to negotiate prices for a ride with nearby drivers.

Allen Chen '19 was invited to attend the US Mathematical Olympiad Program. He is one of only 24 students chosen to attend the summer Olympiad training program, of which six will be chosen to represent the United States in the International Math Olympiad in Romania.

IMSA's amazing Spanish Language students earned superstar status with their National Spanish Exam results. 52 students took the National Spanish Exam Level III and V, all receiving recognition with 26 Gold, 16 Silver, seven bronze and three honorable mentions.

IMSA RISE students showed exceptional results at the IJAS State Fair. Of the 14 RISErs that went to State, 11 received Gold Awards and three received Silver Awards.

Faculty/Staff

English Faculty, Tracy Townsend wrote "Dialogue in SFF and Beyond (Part Two): Terms from Your History Notebook & Other Smart Reader Things" in her recent Luna Station Quarterly column.

Dr. Adrienne Coleman, IMSA Director of Equity and Inclusion, shared her research on Diversifying the STEM Education to Career Pathway at the Athens Institute for Education and Research in Greece this summer.

Liz Martinez, Curriculum Manager, SEI, presented a research project with her cohort at the 2018 Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research National Meeting.

The second book in English Faculty Tracy Townsend's *Thieves of Fate* series, *The Fall*, is scheduled for release on January 15, 2019.

IMSA alumna, Sharon Zeng '08 released her first single "*Someday, Someone*" from her new album earlier this month.

English Faculty, Dr. Adam Kotlarczyk's short piece "*The Only Fight I was Ever In*" is posted on Walleah Press's Communion Arts Journal.

Dr. Eric Rettberg, English faculty, presented "*Digital Literary Studies in the High School Environment*" to an international audience at the Digital Humanities Conference in Mexico City.

History Faculty, Dr. Lee Eysturliid's peer reviewed article, "*Should France and Great Britain Have Gone to War with Germany in 1938? Maybe. . .*" was published on ABC-CLIO World At War Understanding Conflict and Society.

Alumni

Congratulations Paul Strasma '94 on Capillary Biomedical's \$2.9 million funding from Cove Fund. Great news for diabetes management technology.

Michael Damian Thomas '92 and Lynne M. Thomas were honored with two 2018 Hugo Awards for Best Semiprozine and Best Editor, Short Form for their *Uncanny Magazine* work.

Kiyomi Hamilton '00 rang in the 2018-19 school year at IMSA's Convocation Ceremony August 20 reminding students to be authentic, cultivate connections and build a legacy.

Anna Yusim '95 wrote an article on the character revealing moments that make us who we are which was featured on the cover article of *Psychology Today*.

Darshan Mehta '94 met with Prime Minister Modi to seek a partnership with the government of India.

Anne Halsall '01, co-founder and CPO of Winnie secured another \$4 million in for this women-founded start-up, an app that makes parents lives easier.

Pooja Agarwal '01 published "Powerful Teaching: Unleash the Science of Learning," a culmination of a 15 year collaboration to understand what works best in education.

Anthony Ortiz '14 was accepted into the Major League Baseball Diversity Fellowship program and started with the Seattle Mariners in June.

Charlie Talley '92 was recognized as a 100 Black Women of Influence Chicago.

Institutional

[Niche.com](#) ranked IMSA as the #1 Public High School in America. Niche ranks 100,000 schools based on statistics and student and parent opinions.

IMSA received the 2018 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine for its PROMISE Program.

IMSA has a new website! Visit imsa.edu.

Ocient and Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy announced a partnership to keep top tech talent in Illinois. IMSA graduates with an interest and expertise in computer science will benefit from internship and employment opportunities with Ocient.

IMSA is accepting applications for RiseUp! – a robotics competition for 7-12th graders focused on robots that help people. Created and managed by IMSA, RiseUp is a low-cost, competition that runs October – May.

IMSA hosted a widely acclaimed and successful ISSF 2018 June 27-July 1, 2018 having hosted over 90 students, educators and school leaders from over 30 schools who traveled thousands of miles to IMSA from approximately 20 countries for the five-day program.

The IMSA Fund provided cash prizes for the IMSA IDEAS Award. Resident Counselor Dane Christianson '11 received the top prize of \$2,500 for IMSA Composting. Four additional teams received \$1,500. They include: Andrew Wiedenmann '19 and Tommy Neidlein '19 with Agrassistant, Akshaya Raghavan '19 for Rethink Numeracy, Milica Barac '20 and Sonia Edassery '20 for Amenity, and Marisa Patel O'Connor '19, Sol Hwangbo '19 and Eden Gorevoy '19 for The Oil Magnet.

IMSA held an Alumni Award Ceremony in May and honored 2018 Winners - Princess Imoukhuede, PhD, Aaron Parness, PhD and Michael Damian Thomas.

Chicago Public Schools CEO Dr. Janice K. Jackson was on campus in May for a staff and student meet and greet.