

Newsletter May 22, 2020



May 30, 2020

Class of 2020 Commencement - 3:30 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rogzmy3RpE>

Student Activities

Senior Class Club put on a fantastic Senior Recognition assembly on Friday, May 15th. The student run assembly featured speeches from Senior Class Club officers, two senior selected faculty members (Dr. Dong & Dr. Eysturid), and the ever popular college stat speech by Ms Julia Husen. As of publishing of this newsletter there have been over 1200 views. If you missed it, feel free to [check it out here](#). Senior Class Club also hosted a small virtual Prom that evening just for Seniors which featured a Senior Kahoot, prom court reveal, and the debut of the prom apparel video. This year's prom king and queen was Brennan Shapiro. Congrats Brennan!

CAB's final event of the year was Wednesday, May 20th. Their annual luau was turned into a virtual Kahoot with trivia and prizes. The event was a great bookend to a year of events put on by the Campus Activities Board.



PROM 2020 Apparel Video

Great opportunity!
[Through VING, teens have an opportunity to give an individual in need an encouraging boost by surprising them with \\$1,000.](#)

Note to the Class of 2020 from ITS:

Once you graduate from IMSA, your IMSA email account will stay active, your status changes to Alumni account and you can keep it as long as they want. If you do not use your account and don't change the password after a year, it gets deactivated and you will have to submit a request to helpdesk@imsa.edu to get the account reactivated.

Note to Classes 2021 and 2022 from ITS:

If you are returning to IMSA for the 2020-2021 academic school year you DO NOT need to return your loaner laptop/MiFi during move out. You are allowed to keep it during the summer and until further notice.

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

2020-2021 IMSA Student Registration

The registration process has changed due to IMSA using a new platform. Please refer to the email sent to both parents and students on May 7, 2020 and May 22, 2020 from mratsamy@imsa.edu. The email includes specific instructions for

each individual student, please read carefully. **Registration forms must be complete and submitted by Monday, June 15, 2020 to avoid the late fee of \$50.00 (Date has been extended).** If you have any questions, concerns or if a form isn't working correctly please email [Minerva Ratsamy](mailto:Minerva.Ratsamy@imsa.edu) or call (630)907-5009.

If your student is NOT returning for the 2020-2021 school year please call me immediately at (630)907-5009.

Move-Out Information

Reminder: Move-out began on 5/20/2020 and goes through 5/29/2020. Move-out emails were sent on May 6th. Important move-out information can be found at www.imsa.edu/moveout.

Parent Resources



REGION III MIDWEST AND PLAINS EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER'S

FAMILIES LEARNING FROM FAMILIES

JUNE VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES

A discussion and learning forum where families can learn from families ideas to support their children and each other during the COVID-19 pandemic

JUNE 6: Balancing Caregiver & "Teacher" Roles at Home

JUNE 13: Supporting Emotional Wellness: Coping with Anxiety & Fears During the COVID-19 Pandemic

JUNE 27: 5 Essential e-Tools for Summer Enrichment



Region III Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center's Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtable Series

A discussion and learning forum for families learning with and from each other to support their children and loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Our Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtables are dynamic, online learning experiences aimed at providing an opportunity for parents/ caregivers with different backgrounds (**i.e. families of Color, families with varied religious backgrounds, families with children with disabilities, families from disinvested communities, non-traditional families**) to talk with and ask questions of an expert in family and community supports, and in home and school partnership. In this series, families from various backgrounds will engage in

discussion with each other and a featured expert, who is also a parent/caregiver, with the aim of sharing ideas and resources related to supporting students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This is a parent/caregiver ONLY event. This experience is designed to be responsive to the interest and needs unique to historically underserved families.

We ask that you please pass along this invitation to parents and caregivers in your network.

We encourage attendance from parents/caregivers with different backgrounds, including, but not limited to:

- Families of Color
- Families with varied religious backgrounds
- Families of children with disabilities
- Families from lower socioeconomic backgrounds
- Non-traditional families (i.e. LGBTQ+ parents/caregivers, foster families, grandparent caregivers)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 6, 2020

[Region III Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center's Families Learning from Families Roundtable: Balancing Caregiver & "Teacher" Roles at Home](#)

12 noon-1:00 PM EST [11 AM CT; 10 AM MT]

Wondering how other parents and caregivers are balancing the roles of "teacher" and "caregiver" during the COVID-19 pandemic? This *Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtable* event, facilitated by scholar-mother **[Dr. Jada Phelps-Moultrie](#)**, Assistant Professor at Michigan State University, provides a great opportunity for parents and caregivers from different backgrounds to share their concerns, offer ideas, and learn about strategies related to balancing family roles with their new roles as educators at home in the age of COVID-19.

We invite you to join this online event where families can connect, share, and learn!

About Dr. Jada Phelps-Moultrie

Dr. Jada Phelps-Moultrie is an Assistant Professor of K-12 Educational Administration in the College of Education at Michigan State University. Her scholarship includes family engagement, culturally responsive leadership and equity in education. She takes an intersectional approach to exploring families and communities and their educational pursuits, extending to online education. She often examines the intersection of race and racism with other forms of oppression. In that aim, she includes how leaders support or detract family/community pursuits. Currently, her work includes how African refugee families support the education of their children in xenophobic climates. She has served on several national research organizations, including the Critical Race Studies in Education Association (CRSEA) and the Graduate Student Council for the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). Jada was also a NCAA Division-I All-American and an Olympic Trial Qualifier in Track and Field. She desires to serve student-athletes at MSU.

June 13, 2020

[Region III Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center's Families Learning from Families Roundtable: Supporting Emotional Wellness: Coping with Anxiety and Fear During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

12 noon-1:00 PM EST [11 AM CT; 10 AM MT]

Every day, we are overwhelmed with news about the COVID-19 pandemic. In this *Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtable* event, we invite families from different backgrounds to come together to discuss their anxieties and fears related to the pandemic and learn self and community care strategies for promoting emotional wellness in the age of COVID-19. This virtual roundtable is facilitated by Tracy Pruitt, M.Ed., a trained school counselor specializing in parent support around trauma, grief and loss, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and behavioral and anger management.

About Tracy Pruitt, M.Ed.

Tracy empowers individuals and families with life skills that improve their quality of life. She strives to lead individuals and families from just surviving to thriving. Tracy earned her Master of Counseling at Indiana State University. With over 20 years of experience working in the school systems as a counselor, she has invested time as a parent educator and behaviorist. Among her areas of focus are Trauma, Grief & Loss, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Behavioral and Anger Management. Tracy has experience working with diverse demographics and is adept at uncovering and responding to the needs of these different populations. Tracy values cultural competency and understands how this influences an individual's experience. Her passion includes helping clients identify their strengths and weaknesses while raising their self-awareness to achieve their personal goals. Tracy uses a holistic approach to the emotional and mental being. She offers a unique and effective approach to counseling by incorporating a combination of therapy approaches such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and Solution Focused Therapy.

June 27, 2020

[Region III Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center's Families Learning from Families Roundtable: 5 Essential e-Tools & Family Activities for Summer Enrichment](#)

12 noon-1:00 PM EST [11 AM CT; 10 AM MT]

June is the summer season for parents, caregivers, and families to be entertaining their children out of school. But with pandemic closures of many public and educational spaces, how does one keep them entertained and engaged throughout the summer? With so many different online options available, how do you know what to use to best support your school-aged children this summer? This *Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtable* event is an interactive showcase of e-tools and resource websites for parents, caregivers, and families with varying experience and exposure to internet-based resources. During this showcase, Dr. Rosiline Floyd, Assistant Director of Technical Assistance from the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center, will overview 5 online activities to support summer learning and enrichment for families. Join other families as we learn from each other what engages their students at home this summer during the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing them for successful re-entry into school buildings in the Fall.

About Dr. Rosiline Floyd

Dr. Rosiline Floyd is the Assistant Director for Technical Assistance at the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center) within the Great Lakes Equity Center. In this role, Dr. Floyd manages the design and delivery of on-site and online professional development content, and provides professional learning technical assistance to clients within the MAP Center's 13-state region. Dr. Floyd has over 15 years of experience as a consultant, researcher, education advocate, and school administrator focused on improving educational outcomes through equity-based PK-20 education. In this work, she developed systems, conducted research, and presented locally/nationally on reducing race-based disparities. Her research and work are rooted in implementing culturally sustaining models to promote an increase in college preparation, retention, and graduation rates for students of Color, and those from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Dr. Floyd holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, a Master of Business Administration, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership.

*The Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center)—a project of The Great Lakes Equity Center, approaches resource and service delivery that is grounded in a multi-tiered framework of technical assistance. Our goal is to engage in well-defined, content-rich technical assistance such that knowledge and expertise are shared in a way that results in transformative systemic change, as well as personal reflection and growth. The Region III Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center Families Learning from Families Virtual Roundtable Series is a project within our Tier Two: Learning Networks tier. To that end, we aim to make this unique learning experience available to others across Region III **by providing a recording and transcriptions of the Series on our website, as well as posting pictures on our social media platforms.** This will not pertain to any concurrent virtual activities with youth.*

School Counselors

For many, summer is a time to relax, reconnect with friends, travel, or engage in non-academic interests. Unfortunately, with many uncertainties around COVID-19, travel restrictions, and safety concerns, many of us may be relegated to our homes and traveling only to essential places. Part of keeping mentally fit is recognizing that the summer does not eliminate depressed feelings, anxious thoughts, and safety issues. For a good number of people, setting expectations about summer activities and then not fulfilling them can often lead to feelings of sadness and disappointment, so it is important to be realistic about the ambiguity that we will all face over the next few months. Below are a few suggestions around how to stay healthy this summer:

1. Practice living in the moment. If I learned anything from watching "The Last Dance" documentary over the past five weeks, it is that embracing the experiences can help keep us grounded. Although things may not always be happy or satisfying, work to keep yourself focused on today, this moment, and what you can do to challenge yourself to re-frame your thoughts.
2. Experience the loss. Not being able to do something that you were looking forward to doing can be upsetting and disappointing. Like anything else that is no longer there or going to happen, take time to grieve. We do this at our own pace, so do not get down on yourself if you cannot shake this feeling after a few days. It is normal to miss something that you cannot do if it is important to you.
3. Work to stay engaged. It is easy to slip into the mindset of avoiding, sleeping, and isolation. Sometimes you have to push yourself to do things that you do not want to do because you know it is healthy for you. How can you stay connected with family, friends, or important people? Summer is a great time to pick up hobbies that were pushed to the side, like music (listening or playing), singing, art, writing, reading for fun, etc.

4. Focus on self-awareness. How do you feel about things going on? What are some of the thoughts that come to you? Are you aware of what you need? Becoming more self-aware can make it easier to let others know what is going on and communicate more effectively.

5. Enjoy your break. It can become easy to focus on anything negative or how things are not what they were supposed to be. It is also possible to focus on what may or may not happen in a few months. If we reflect on how much has changed in the past two months, there is a good amount that will likely change in the next two months. Rather than focus on unknowns and what ifs, try to enjoy your free time, your family, and things that are meaningful to you. You worked hard over the past 10 months, so allow yourself to enjoy your time away from school.



Important Reminder:

Please call Attendance at (630)907-5029 if your student is sick and/or can not attend class. Please provide details including symptoms or diagnosis if available.

IMSA Student Emergency Relief Fund Not only has IMSA's alumni, Sam Yagan '95 and Jessica Droste Yagan '95, committed to supporting the IMSA Student Emergency Relief Fund in a major way to bring the \$100,000 goal in reach, the successful power couple want to send their support to all IMSA students, especially seniors, during these challenging times.

Jessica, managing partner and CEO of Impact Engine, LLC, an investment firm with a mission to bring more capital to a market where financial returns are linked to positive social and environmental impacts, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Haverford College, an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, and a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Prior to Impact Engine, Jessica led the creation of McDonald's Corporation's global and U.S. sustainable sourcing strategies.

Sam, who hails from rural Bourbonnais, IL is the son of Syrian immigrants and best known as the co-founder of SparkNotes and Ok Cupid. He is currently the CEO of Chicago-based ShopRunner, an e-commerce network that provides free two-day shipping and returns across multiple merchants. Sam holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics and Economics from Harvard University and an MBA from **Stanford University**.

Applications to the **Student Emergency Relief Fund** are ongoing and provide assistance for basic essentials, including food, rent, utilities and access to remote learning technology. Preference is given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 families, but all families are eligible to apply. If you have any questions about the Student Emergency Relief Fund, please reach out to Mrs. Tami Armstrong at tarmstrong@imsa.edu.

imsa.edu

