

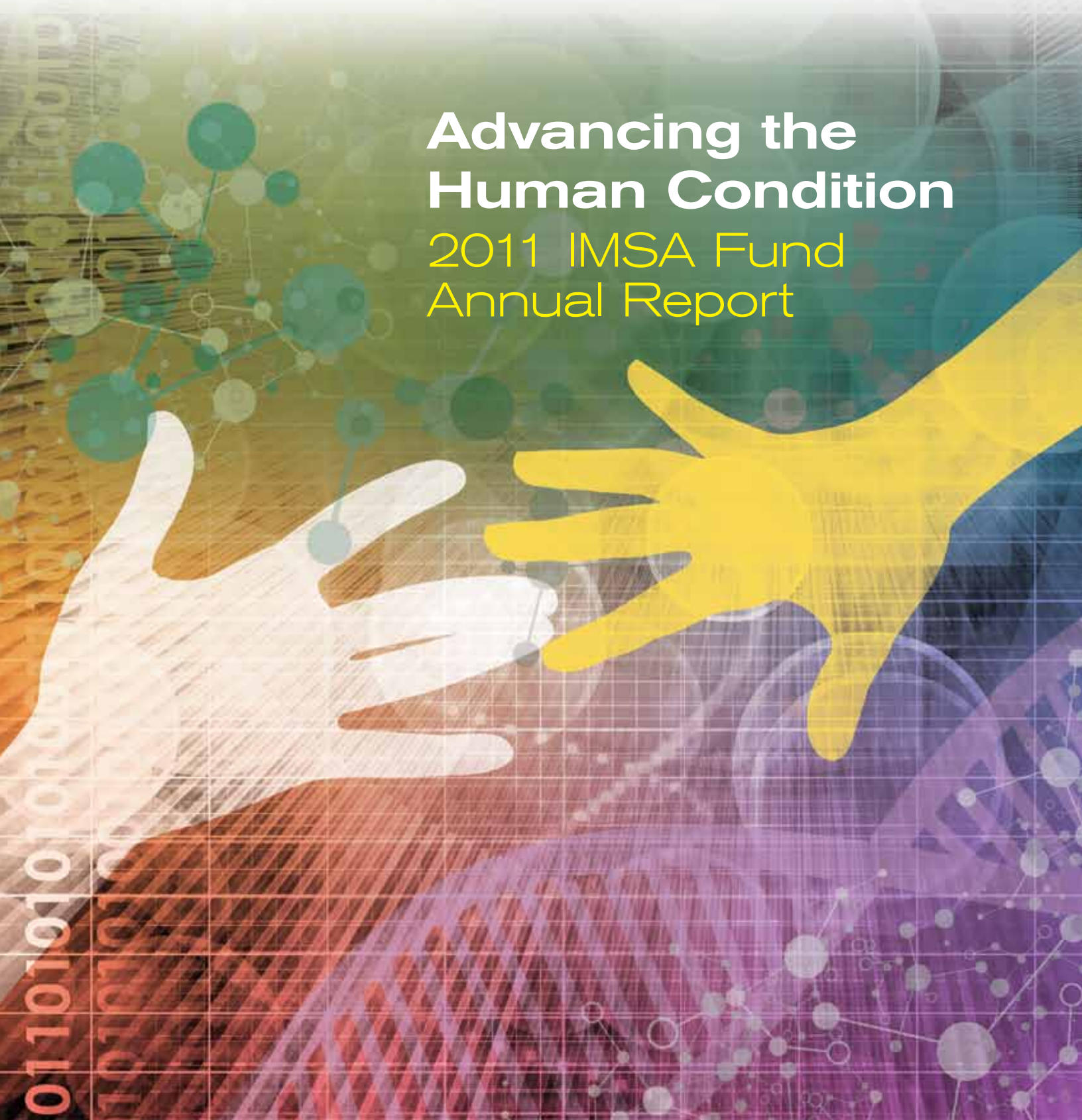
IMSA360

FALL/WINTER2011

News for Alumni and Friends of the
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

Advancing the Human Condition

2011 IMSA Fund
Annual Report





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Glenn W. "Max" McGee
IMSA President

In this issue of *IMSA360*, which doubles as the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education's 2011 annual report, we chronicle a journey none of us wanted but many of us now embrace. The tentacles of our ALS story and attention to "orphan diseases" stretch far and wide, supported by our donors, driven by our students, staff and community partners, and inspired by our Principal and Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Eric McLaren. His story – our story – calls us to advance the human condition through education, research, advocacy and action. While we cannot dial back the clock and undo Dr. McLaren's diagnosis, we can, we must and we will continue to live and work in accordance with the IMSA Board of Trustees' original philosophy statement, authored by Dr. Leon Lederman a quarter of a century ago, and in doing so we will extend our Principal's legacy:

"If we do what we know and feel is right, it is bound to happen that among our graduates there will numbered scientists, engineers, and those who go on to earn degrees in law and letters. 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."

In addition to supporting programming on orphan diseases, donors to the IMSA Fund make possible many other learning experiences and services for our residential students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents; for teachers and students in Illinois and beyond; and for others. Our ability to personalize, enrich, expand, innovate, stretch and lead transformation requires resources beyond State appropriations. Without our donors, we could not do as much or do as well. We could not *be IMSA*. In this annual report, we are proud to recognize individuals and families, corporations, foundations and other organizations who support our needs and aspirations. We know you have choices about your philanthropic commitments; thank you for making the IMSA Fund one of your priorities.

We have had an excellent fall at IMSA. Let me mention just three highlights. First, we hosted a workforce summit featuring Andreas Schleicher, who heads the education division of the Organisation of Economic and Cultural Development. The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) measures student success around the world. We are working with OECD to become a pilot site for an international benchmarking assessment. Second, we had an amazing alumni panel for our IMSA Great Minds Program® on orphan diseases. Dr. Irfan Qureshi '94, Dr. Michael Wilson '94, Meiyi Wu '94 and Dr. Jennifer Ellis Ward '93 shared incredible stories and slides about their research and reinforced that our job is to prepare students for careers that do not yet exist. Third, our Problem-Based Learning team has been tapped for the third Illinois Innovation Talent project, a collaborative venture among several state agencies. Using **Coolhub.IMSA**, students, teachers and industry partners throughout our state will work together online to find innovative solutions to real-world problems.

In the next issue of *IMSA360*, we will highlight special IMSA25 activities, including our visioning and design charrette to help chart a course for IMSA's future online learning offerings (December 2–3, 2011) and our 25th anniversary gala (April 14, 2012).

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Courtesy of IMSA/Chris Reader (unless otherwise noted)

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Send comments, questions or story ideas to:
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IMSA360: Recipient of the National School Public Relations Association Award of Excellence, the Illinois School Public Relations Association Award of Excellence, the American Graphic Design Award and the Hermes Creative Award.

NEWSHEADLINES

News for alumni and friends of the
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy® (IMSA)

Harris Family Foundation Donates \$1 Million for Innovation at IMSA



The IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education (www3.imsa.edu/giving/about) has received a \$1 million pledge to its endowment from the Harris Family Foundation of Chicago, Illinois. The gift will support future innovation at IMSA and is designated for the *Stephanie Pace Marshall Endowment to Ignite Innovation*,

named in honor of IMSA's founding president and president emerita. The donation eventually will provide annual funding to build, support and nurture the innovation culture and ecosystem of IMSA. This fund will invest in transformative innovations in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development and digital learning technologies. It also will enable students, staff and partners to design, develop, prototype and evaluate new systems, processes, products and services to enhance the way people learn, live and work.

IMSA360

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Boeing Supports Preservice Teachers in Metro East Region

The Boeing Company of St. Louis provided a \$20,475 grant to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education to support a collaborative project between IMSA and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in the Metro East region of Illinois. The Boeing Company Teacher Candidate Institute supported preservice teachers with hands-on instruction and 40 middle school students with a "Let's Do Launch" science and mathematics summer program.

Illinois Tool Works Supports Programs for Illinois Teachers and Students

An Illinois Tool Works, Inc. grant of \$25,000 to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, the second of a three-year pledge, will support IMSA's programs which increase the capacity of students and teachers throughout Illinois to be interested in and excel in science and mathematics. More than 11,000 students and teachers were involved in IMSA's statewide programs in Fiscal Year 2010.

IMSA PROMISE Program in Chicago Attracts Funders

Polk Bros. Foundation provided a \$20,000 grant and SAP America, Inc. provided a \$15,000 grant to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education to support IMSA PROMISE programs for students in Chicago Public Schools. The IMSA PROMISE programs develop a pipeline for hundreds of students each year who are historically under-represented within the STEM fields.





CoolHub.IMSA Project Wins National Blackboard Award

The United Nations of Youth Project (UNY), inspired by State Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (pictured second from left) and hosted on **CoolHub.IMSA**, was named one of 10 national winners in the "Collaborate for Good" contest sponsored by Blackboard. UNY is a collaborative project committed to the ultimate goal of world peace. An inaugural Web conference through CoolHub.IMSA focused on the topic of educational problems/issues as presented by students from schools throughout the world including China, Finland, Singapore, South Korea and the United States (IMSA). Future Web conferences will focus on global education problems. As a result of the award, a 50-seat Blackboard Collaborate room will enable this project to expand to more than 40 new schools.

Student Achievements Recognized in National and Global Venues



Peter Lu

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) recognized Peter Lu as one of the top 10 Research Science Institute (RSI) scholars out of 77 who conducted research during the summer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Lu was one of only five students to receive a top written award for recognized secondary school

academic achievers. The internationally recognized RSI is a six-week intensive program that provides students with the opportunity to conduct original, cutting-edge research in state-of-the-art university laboratories, hospitals and corporate research facilities. Following the conclusion of RSI, CEE continues to provide interaction and enrichment opportunities for alumni throughout their undergraduate and graduate years.

Nishith Reddy was one of only four U.S. finalists and the only Illinois winner in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, the world's most prestigious youth award for a water-related science project. His winning research paper focuses on the development of a silver sensor for water contamination.

Shantanu (Shawn) Jain was one of only two students from Illinois to win first place in Economics at the Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. In addition, Kirthi Banothu and Kevin Shi won fourth place in Management Information Systems and Xin Ding, Theja Kudaravalli and Vivian Zhang won eighth place in Banking and Financial Systems.



Patricia Ronczy

Patricia Ronczy is one of only 48 U.S. high school students of Russian to be recognized as a 2011 Russian Scholar Laureate by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

Megan Chen was invited to participate in the 2011 Math Prize for Girls Olympiad as a result of her eighth place ranking in the 2011 Math Prize for Girls contest, sponsored and organized by the Advantage Testing Foundation.

Five IMSA seniors qualified as semifinalists in the 2012 National Achievement® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for African-American high school students. IMSA seniors Courtney Amegashie, Jennifer Bailey, Marcelo Diop-Gonzalez, Chibuzo Obasi and Jelani Rowland are among more than 1,600 semifinalists now eligible to compete for about 800 achievement scholarships.

IMSA recognized its 52 semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit® Scholarship Program. The semifinalists represent 36 communities throughout Illinois. Nearly 1.5 million seniors in approximately 22,000 U.S. high schools entered the year 2012 competition by taking the qualifying exam in 2010 (their junior year). National semifinalists include less than one percent of each state's seniors. Read the full story and names of the IMSA semifinalists at www3.imsa.edu/news/releases/2011/09/20/imsa-names-52-national-merit-semifinalists.

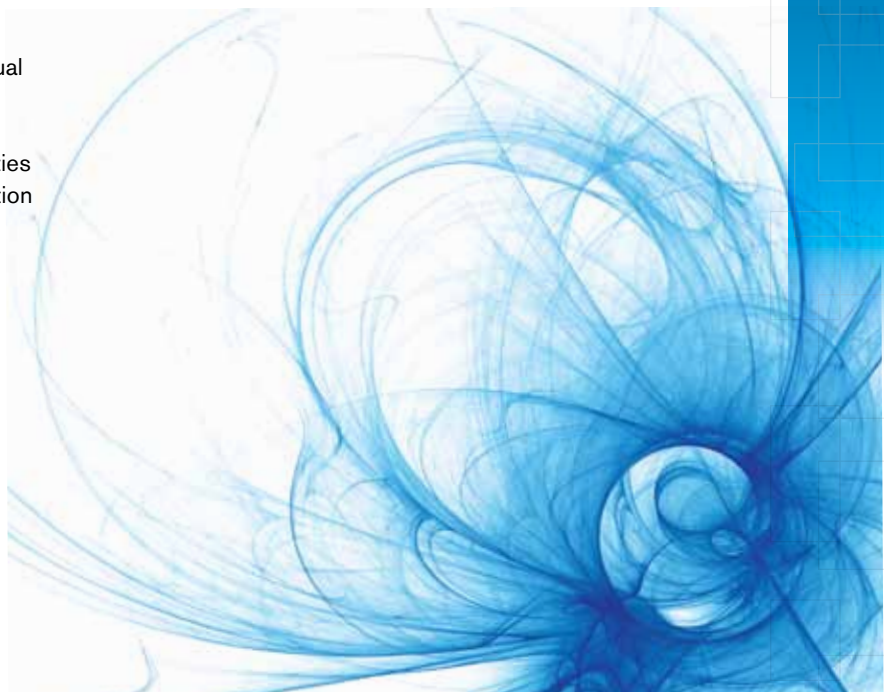


IMSA Faculty and Staff Contribute to Their Fields

IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee serves as Co-Chair of the Illinois P-20 Council Data and Assessment Committee, charged with rewriting the State Report Card for Illinois Schools. The work of the Illinois P-20 committee is expected to be approved by the Illinois legislature and will replace the current version which has been in existence for the past 25 years. “It will replace the cumbersome current eight-plus page version with a powerful one-page document that provides key metrics to drive school improvement decisions,” McGee said.

Dr. McGee presented “Excellent Adventures in Global Collaboration” at the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology (NCSSSMST) Annual Conference and “Move That Plus! An Extreme Makeover of State Mathematics Assessment and Reporting” at the annual Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Conference. In addition, Dr. McGee was invited to serve on the Chicago Ideas Week panel “The Realities of Education Reinvention: Making Innovative Education Ideas More Actionable.” www.chicagoideas.com

Founding President and President Emerita Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall attended the 7th Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York City. Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, CGI convenes global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. This year’s CGI agenda was organized around three topics: *Jobs, Jobs, Jobs*; *Sustainable Consumption*; and *Girls & Women*.



Giving Back to Illinois



Pooja K. Agarwal '01 obtained her Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis and works for the Illinois State Board of Education as the Division Administrator of Assessment in Springfield. Pooja “looks forward to giving back to

the State of Illinois, contributing to education policy reform, and also to serving the public!” For more information and to contact Pooja, please visit www.poojaagarwal.com.

“Netpreneur” Featured in Crain’s



Sam Yagan '95, a nationally recognized entrepreneur of widely used online services, was featured in *Crain’s Chicago Business* in the story “The Innovators: Netpreneur Sam Yagan of Excelebrate Labs.” Sam leads Excelebrate Labs, a Chicago-based intensive

summer accelerator for startup companies driven by proven entrepreneurs and investors. The annually selected startups build their businesses and connections, then showcase their plans to angel and venture investors.

\$2.5M Early Career Research Award



Daniel Sinars '92 received a Department of Energy Office of Science Early Career Research Program award for \$2.5 million over five years. The award is given to outstanding university or national laboratory researchers within 10 years of their doctorates.

The award will enable the study of “Fundamental instability measurements in magnetically driven Z-pinch liner implosions” using the “Z” facility at Sandia National Laboratories, where Daniel has worked on inertial confinement fusion and high energy density physics since 2001.

SPARK for Startups



Maliha Mustafa '00 is co-founder and director of SPARK Chicago, a six-day incubation contest that provides select applicants with free access to mentors, active investors, and services needed to build a viable company. The program is unique in that it provides

donated development and marketing services for startups to build out their infrastructure.



2011 IMSA Board of Trustee Alumni Award Winners (L to R) Dr. Frank Wood '92, Dr. Ronjon Paul '89, Dr. Matthew Pritchard '93 and Clara Shih '00 gather during the IMSA Alumni Awards Ceremony in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions to their professions. For complete profiles of the 2011 award recipients, visit www.imsaalumni.org/2011awards.



Author Todd Mitchell '92 was a featured guest at an IMSA Alumni Association event on October 2, 2011 in Palo Alto, CA where he led a discussion on his second book, **The Secret to Lying**, named a 2011 Colorado Book Award Winner in the category of Young Adult Literature. In the book’s acknowledgments, Mitchell writes “Finally, I want to thank the faculty, students, and staff at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy – the school that changed my life.”

COMMUNITYNOTES

Ray Buhr '05 joined Nan McKay & Assoc. in January 2011 as a Management Analyst and is currently working in Chicago for the Chicago Housing Authority.

Amy Peterson '04 received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University with the thesis topic "Development of Remendable Polymer Composites using a Thermoreversible Reaction." She is a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam, Germany in the area of biocompatible and bioactive surfaces.

Rob Main '05 lives in New York, N.Y. and works in credit trading at UBS Investment Bank. He is a CFA Level III candidate and a graduate of the University of Illinois.

In Memoriam

LCDR Scott Sundem, IMSA Class of 1990, passed away on September 28, 2011. Scott served in the U.S. Navy since 1992, most recently as an operations officer for Submarine Squadron 20. Scott graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and received his Master of Science degree in Physics at the United States Naval Postgraduate School. Scott is survived by his wife, Krisztina Nadas, IMSA Class of 1991, and their five children. Visit www.imsaalumni.org/sundem for more information about Scott and the Sundem Tribute.

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.



IMSA President Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee joined alumni, friends and "future alumni" at the IMSA Alumni Association event on October 1, 2011 in Champaign, IL. This event has become a tradition for alumni to gather for the annual football game between rivals Northwestern University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).



ALUMNICORNER

It was about 25 years ago when I first left home and took a leap of faith to study at IMSA. As the second class entering IMSA, there was some uncertainty that there would even be enough funding to last beyond the first semester that year. We lived in the main building while waiting for the residence halls to be built and experimented with different class schedules to see how best to balance the academic rigor.

Fast forward to today when I get to see IMSA from another angle – as an IMSA parent. My daughter, Megan, recently entered her junior year. Thanks to the work of many in the IMSA community, countless donors and volunteers, the IMSA of today is a more mature institution with solid foundations in their academics, residential life, and external programs. It's easy to reflect how far IMSA has come in the past 25 years and there is no doubt that IMSA will be around and thriving for another 25 years and beyond.

This past July, the IMSA Alumni Association (IAA) hosted Alumni Weekend. Events included the Fifth Annual Board of Trustees Alumni Awards and Alumni Volunteers Recognition Dinner which recognized four distinguished alumni and a record number of 201 alumni volunteers representing every graduating class. The weekend also included campus activities and reunions for the classes of 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006. Special thanks to the following reunion coordinators: Jessica Joy Frost and Ami Kasprzak Szechinski '91; Angela Coton, Eva (Bach) Engelhard, Brian Sebbly, and John Niebruegge '96; Laura Davis, Lavina Jadhvani, Melissa Kaye, Matthew Knisley, Charise Pettit-Shartle, Nan Sethakorn, and Sarah Sanders '01; and Meghan Carroll, Aiva Levins, Natasha Sansone, Stephanie Song, and Cindy Wang '06.

In addition to future alumni programs such as Alumni Weekend, the IAA also will focus on initiatives to connect alumni to students and to IMSA. A sample of current initiatives offered include: CCC (College, Career & Choices) Forums which bring together a panel of alumni to discuss topics such as STEM careers with students; Alumni Siblings which match students with an alumni mentor; and the University Hosts program which pairs students with current alumni in college. The IAA also will be working with IMSA's development team to promote the importance of annual alumni contributions to the IMSA Fund. It's important to remember that the IAA is funded directly through the IMSA Fund. Therefore, alumni donations to the Fund help the IAA to create and sustain programs for alumni, students and the institution.

For more details on Alumni Weekend 2011, IAA projects, and other alumni news, please visit the IAA website at <http://www.imsaalumni.org>.

Thanks to all the IMSA alumni who voted for me to serve as the IAA President. I look forward to working with our newly elected IAA cabinet (see list) representing alumni from the Charter Class of 1989 to the Class of 2008.

Melvin Bacani '90
IMSA Alumni Association President
president@imsaalumni.org



Congratulations to the newly elected IMSA Alumni Association Cabinet for 2011-2012

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Amanda Murphy '03

Secretary

Marti Shirley '00

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Winn Wasson '01

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Melissa Comenduley '90

Daniel Geiger '08

Cheryl Heinz '89

Amy Kinney '95

Jakob Kotas '05

Nicholas Lilovich '04

Maliha Mustafa '00

Brian Sebbly '96

Amber Thompson '03



IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education

Donor Recognition & Financial Summary

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 donations fund programs and services for IMSA students and staff, other students and educators in Illinois and beyond, and IMSA alumni and parents.

Corporations, foundations, small businesses and individuals make possible numerous opportunities that otherwise would not occur. Gifts to the IMSA Fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law and are recognized by our fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. Our Tax Identification Number is #36-3422778.

How Do Donors Make a Difference?

The State of Illinois funds much of IMSA's uniquely challenging residential program for students who are talented in STEM and some of its statewide professional field services for schools, teachers and students throughout Illinois. However, for IMSA to *be* IMSA, private sector support is essential.

Donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education – board members, alumni, parents, faculty and staff, students, friends, foundations, corporations, small businesses and other organizations – advance IMSA's mission and legislative charges in countless ways, large and small. You enable IMSA to broaden and deepen

learning opportunities for students, serve more teachers and students throughout Illinois and beyond, invest in research and development, innovate, influence education policy and lead on the global stage.

Individually and collectively, you help IMSA and those we serve reach higher, excel more and go beyond knowledge.

Gifts to the annual fund and endowment, major gifts, grants and gifts-in-kind, are all important; all donations matter. Your contributions:

- Ignite and nurture diverse STEM talent – research talent, entrepreneurial talent, leadership talent
- Elevate STEM education in Illinois and beyond – teacher preparation, professional development, student enrichment
- Expand access to IMSA services – on campus, online, in IMSA Field Office regions, statewide
- Fuel innovation for the future – collaborative innovation projects and networks, prototypes, new product lines
- Change trajectories and transform lives
- Advance the human condition

**We are grateful for your support.
Thank you.**



Year-End Summary

	For the Year Ended June 30, 2011	% of total	For the Year Ended June 30, 2010	% of total
PROGRAM SUPPORT AND OTHER EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$1,106,186.00	88%	\$1,029,230.00	86%
Supporting Services				
Fundraising	54,412.00	4%	72,938.00	6%
Management and General	<u>99,910.00</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>90,984.00</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$1,260,508.00</u></u>	<u><u>100%</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,193,152.00</u></u>	<u><u>100%</u></u>

Management, general and fundraising expenses decreased from \$163,922 in fiscal year 2010 to \$154,322 in fiscal year 2011.

SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

	For the Year Ended June 30, 2011	For the Year Ended June 30, 2010
Beginning Balance	\$3,760,383.00	\$3,716,018.00
Contributions, Pledges, Support	2,077,145.00	891,175.00
Other Revenue	382,095.00	21,320.00
Expenses	(1,260,508.00)	(1,193,152.00)
Investment Gain/(Loss)	732,385.00	325,022.00
Ending Balance	<u><u>\$5,691,500.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,760,383.00</u></u>
Change in Net Assets	\$1,931,117.00	\$44,365.00

The Fund received a \$1,000,000 Pledge Contribution in FY2011 from the Harris Family Foundation.

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 our donors whose collective financial support facilitates the transformation of IMSA's vision 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:

Cyan Society	(\$5,000,000+)
Magenta Society	(\$2,500,000+)
Violet Society	(\$1,000,000+)
Indigo Society	(\$500,000+)
Blue Society	(\$250,000+)
Green Society	(\$100,000+)
Yellow Society	(\$50,000+)
Orange Society	(\$25,000+)
Red Society	(\$10,000+)

Magenta Society (\$2,500,000.00+)

The Harris Family Foundation

Violet Society (\$1,000,000.00+)

The Grainger Foundation
IMSA Alumni Association

Indigo Society (\$500,000.00+)

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Andrew Corporation and its employees
AT&T Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Hansen-Furnas Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Robert H. Malott
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Tellabs Foundation

Blue Society (\$250,000.00+)

Michael and Kay Birck
BP America Inc.
Caterpillar Foundation
Virginia B. Cherry
ComEd
Paul Galvin Memorial Foundation Trust
Grand Victoria Foundation
Malott Family Foundation
The Hitachi Foundation
Motorola Foundation
Toyota USA Foundation

Green Society (\$100,000.00+)

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Robert Pritzker (Pritzker Foundation)
The Searle Funds at The Chicago
Community Trust
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
William J. and Jane S. White
Jarvis and Tracy Yeh

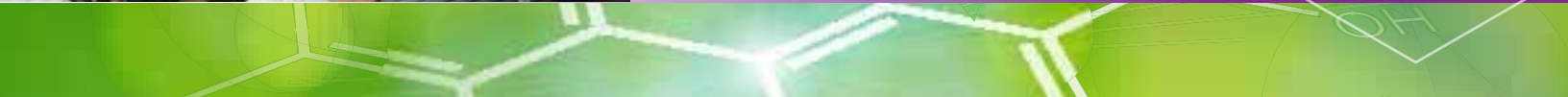
Yellow Society (\$50,000.00+)

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Susan Snell Barnes
The Boeing Company
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Greg and Ann Jones & Family Foundation
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Precision Scientific
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SAP America, Inc.
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Scott Swanson '90

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Ameren Corporation
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Borwell Charitable Foundation
The Chicago Community Foundation
Samuel S. Choi '89 and Karen Choi
Comer Science and Education Foundation
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Fifth Third Bank
The Forest Fund
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S & C Foundation
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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 or colleague.

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While we carefully prepare this donor list, we recognize that errors may have occurred. Please accept our apology if your name is not properly represented and contact the IMSA Fund at (630) 907-5040 so that our records can be corrected. Thank you!

If we do what we know and feel is right, it is bound to happen that among our graduates there will be numbered scientists, engineers, and those who go on to earn degrees in law and letters. 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.

– Dr. Leon Lederman, Nobel Laureate
IMSA “Founding Father” and Resident Scholar

IMSA-Project A.L.S.™

Advancing Through Advocacy

IMSA360

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The IMSA-Project A.L.S. Partnership was seeded in the fall of 2010 when Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, founding president and president emerita of IMSA, met Ben Stiller, comedian, actor, writer, film director, and producer, at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. Dr. Marshall sought him out not because he was a famous star, but because he was a passionate advocate in the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

Stiller quickly connected IMSA and Project A.L.S., two leading organizations drawn together by a common cause.

Since then, the IMSA-Project A.L.S. partnership has taken root and now inspires the IMSA community and beyond to advocate, act and search for a cure. IMSA President Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee said he continues to be amazed by the passion and drive of alumni, students and colleagues.

“The hope, passion, perseverance and dedication shown by alumni, students and staff in the fight against ALS makes me extremely proud to be a part of IMSA – a place where we help students achieve their aspirations, stretch their imaginations and use their gifts to advance the human condition,” Dr. McGee said. “In addition, it is inspirational to see their collective talents, skills and hearts come together to collaborate for a common cause – drawn together by the life of a man whom they so deeply respect and admire.”

IMSA-Project A.L.S. Partnership Ignites Summer Student Research

An interview with IMSA student Vivian Zhang about her summer research experience at Project A.L.S.



IMSA360: Why did you want to pursue a research opportunity with Project A.L.S.?

Zhang: I first became aware of Project A.L.S. when Valerie Estess came to IMSA to talk about ALS and the research the organization pursues. I had never considered ALS research beforehand, but I had taken Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) and I was intrigued by how much of the presentation I understood. I thought that studying ALS would give me an opportunity to use the knowledge I had gained and learn how it pertains to the real world.

IMSA360: What were the three most valuable takeaways you learned about the research process in a “real-life” laboratory?

Zhang: 1. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. Fortunately, I never made the same mistake twice. Each error just made me more conscious of things to check for the

next time. 2. Research work is tedious and often very slow. There were times when I’d sit at a computer counting cells which could easily number into the hundreds...per image. Waiting for results is a matter of months and often years. It takes a lot of passion and patience. 3. Never discount anything. Most of our procedures required working on a micro scale and sometimes even nano. The smallest of amounts can make all the difference. In our Methods of Scientific Inquiry course at IMSA, I was taught never to discard data, and I now understand why.

IMSA360: What were the most important lessons you learned about ALS research?

Zhang: Finding a cure for ALS would be a huge breakthrough for neurodegenerative diseases. ALS is linked to many other diseases because of how it affects cells in the body. Also, ALS research does not



For more photos from the IMSA ALS Awareness night visit www3.imsa.edu/news/slideshow/ALSawarenessNight.

IMSA's journey with Project A.L.S. flourished in December, 2010 when Co-founder and Director of Research Valerie Estess (whose sister Jenifer died from the disease) visited IMSA as the keynote speaker for an assembly, "Project A.L.S. – Finding and Funding Treatments and a Cure for A.L.S." Since then the partnership has grown to, in the words of IMSA's mission statement, "ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition."

In June 2011, IMSA hosted an ALS Awareness Night to raise awareness of ALS and advance the IMSA-Project A.L.S. Partnership (see photos from event). Featured guest speakers were Valerie Estess and Dr. Kevin Eggan, Ph.D., associate professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard University. Dr. Eggan is a current grantee of the Project A.L.S.-funded research – *Human ES and iPS Cell Based Models of ALS*.

Dr. Eric McLaren, IMSA principal and vice president for academic programs, and his wife Kim [Vitek] McLaren, a former IMSA staff member, served as honorary co-chairs. Diagnosed with ALS in September 2010, Dr. McLaren inspires many with his determination to live and work as long and strong as possible as he battles this cruel disease.

The event raised more than \$60,000 for the McLaren Family Research Fund at Project A.L.S. and \$20,000 for the IMSA Fund's "cure a dreaded human ailment" (cadha) fund.

As a result of the IMSA-Project A.L.S. Partnership and with support from the cadha fund, IMSA student Vivian Zhang conducted research at the Project A.L.S. Jenifer Estess Laboratory for Stem Cell Research in New York during the summer of 2011.

To learn more about Project A.L.S. news, events and the research underway, visit www.projectals.org.

To learn more about Vivian's summer research experience at Project A.L.S., read her interview (inset).

always require studying patients with ALS. In the lab, there were many people working on developing models to study ALS in a more controlled setting. However, those models require studying pathways and proteins that act in the progression of other neurodegenerative diseases as well. There are fascinating connections between these diseases.

IMSA360: Do you plan to pursue future ALS research opportunities and if so, where/when would you like to begin?

Zhang: I do plan on pursuing future ALS research opportunities. I've gained a lot of laboratory experience working at Project A.L.S., but I still have a lot to learn. This year as part of my Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) project I am working in the laboratory of Dr. Teepu Siddique, with Dr. Faisal Fecto; Siddique is the director of the first ALS

Laboratory at Northwestern University. By continuing to study ALS, I will be able to fine tune my abilities in a context with which I'm familiar.

IMSA360: Is there anything you learned from this experience that you can apply to your SIR (Student Inquiry and Research) investigation at IMSA?

Zhang: I became much better at keeping a lab journal. I developed a compulsion for recording everything that I did: all my procedures, my mistakes, my results. Whenever I ran a gel, I'd print out the picture and tape it to my notebook. In general, I learned a lot of laboratory techniques. Small things like loading a gel are second nature to me now.

IMSA360: What would you tell other IMSA students interested in pursuing a research opportunity of this type?

Zhang: For starters, take MCB! The first day at Project A.L.S., Alex (my lab supervisor) told my lab partner (a Columbia University sophomore) and me to run a PCR (polymerase chain reaction), a procedure to amplify a segment of DNA. He didn't expect me to know what a PCR was, much less know how to run one and was surprised when I didn't need an explanation. From then on, Alex would explain the context of certain procedures and protocols to me, but because I knew enough of the fundamental biology behind it, we saved a lot of time which I could then dedicate to working in the lab. My second piece of advice: be comfortable making mistakes – it will happen...a lot. Nothing you do will be so egregious that everyone will hate you.

The hope is that the cadha fund will inspire you to find something that feeds your sense of purpose. The hope is that it will press you beyond 'being good' to 'being good for something.'

– Dr. Eric McLaren
IMSA Principal and Vice President for Academic Programs

IMSA Fund cadha fund

Advancing Through Expanded Opportunities

IMSA360

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During the 2010–11 academic year, friends and colleagues of Dr. McLaren established in his honor the “cure a dreaded human ailment” fund, also known as the cadha fund.

The name “Cadha” (ca-dha) is Scottish (like McLaren) and means “from a steep place.”



An interview with IMSA Fund donor and IMSA staff member Linsey Crowninshield, assistant director of student life: leadership and service

IMSA360: Can you please describe your past and present roles at the Academy?

Crowninshield: I am in my 12th year at the Academy. In essence I grew up here starting as a resident counselor at the young age of 21. After two years, I became a hall coordinator for three years and head of Residence Life for four years. I am currently in my third year working primarily with service learning and leadership programs and curriculum development. Every day I look for opportunities to help students explore their passions and apply them toward positive change.

IMSA360: Why is it important for you and others to support IMSA and the IMSA Fund?

Crowninshield: Giving to the IMSA Fund is great because so many of the non-traditional learning experiences it supports help students form their curiosity about the world, create their identity and establish their values.

IMSA360: In particular, why do you support the cadha fund?

Crowninshield: IMSA's history and origin came from a “steep place,” a fight against the odds. The cadha fund framed opportunities for our community and beyond to take problems that are from a steep place and work to solve them. Cadha is about our mission, our values and advancing the human condition. Cadha is also about foundational change because it is not asking for quick fixes; rather, it dives deeper into root issues, ideas and challenges.



“Though it may require some mountain-moving or traveling unknown and difficult roads and passages, curing a dreaded human ailment and helping others who have the talent and passion to do so are magnanimous ways to advance the human condition,” Dr. McLaren said.

Gifts to the IMSA Fund’s cadha fund support IMSA programming related to curing dreaded human ailments and improving quality of life for those who are afflicted, with emphasis on serious orphan diseases including ALS.

An orphan disease is a rare disease which has not been “adopted” by the pharmaceutical industry because there are not enough patients to make drug development cost-effective. An orphan disease also can be a disease which is rare in the industrialized world but common and largely ignored in the developing world. These diseases face special challenges in attracting public attention, research and funding. Examples of serious orphan diseases are amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), cystic fibrosis and Tourette’s syndrome.

The cadha fund supports various learning experiences and opportunities for students, staff and others who participate in IMSA programs, including but not limited to:

- Research opportunities
- Applied technology projects
- Educational and advocacy initiatives
- Curriculum innovation

“Though I am honored to be the one to inspire your commitment to this endeavor, our work has just begun,” said Dr. McLaren in a message to the IMSA community. “For beyond the desire to cure disease, should be the will to confront all steep places and to strive to create a better life that can only come from the wellspring of education.”

“Let this fund grow beyond our wildest dreams – limitless in our ideas and in the opportunities we create.”

To learn more about the cadha fund or make a donation, visit www3.imsa.edu/giving/leadership/cadha.

IMSA360: What do you hope to provide IMSA students through the cadha fund?

Crowninshield: I hope to offer more expeditionary and experiential learning opportunities for students, first and foremost to promote research related to orphan diseases. Also, I hope to make connections with other prominent high schools that are advocating and taking action in relation to orphan diseases – to promote the exchange of thoughts, ideas and collaboration.

IMSA360: What are the ways other staff members and constituents can give?

Crowninshield: The IMSA Fund offers a variety of giving options, as does IMSA. We should all strive for a good mix and fair balance between the giving of our time,

talent and treasure. Being part of the IMSA community is a privilege and an opportunity to grow, develop and take risks, be limitless in our ideas and interactions, and ultimately find a fulfilling balance.

There is a symbiotic relationship between giving and learning, and people give to honor others. I believe in the work and the life of Eric and I want to forever cement his contributions, voice and influence in the design of how we work and play and move things outwards. For me, cadha is about giving, learning and developing.



IMSA staff member Linsey Crowninshield attends ALS Awareness night with IMSA students, staff, alumni, other IMSA community members and friends of the McLaren family to support efforts in the fight against ALS.

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is home to not only some of the State's brightest students, but also to some of the most dedicated students in the fight against ALS. Dr. P. Hande Ozdinler, as part of the ALS Awareness Month activities, visited IMSA, met with the students and staff, and gave a presentation about ALS as part of the IMSA Great Minds Program...Thanks to Dr. Ozdinler's initiative, we are pleased to host and mentor IMSA students in ALS research at Northwestern University laboratories, and we will be happy to see these talented, highly motivated students and Dr. McLaren at our upcoming events.

– Les Turner, ALS Foundation

ALS Campus Initiatives

Advancing Through Student Research and Innovation

IMSA students became introduced to Dr. P. Hande Ozdinler's research during ALS Awareness Month, and as part of the IMSA Great Minds Program®. During her presentation "Intrinsic and Extrinsic Factors that Control Motor Neuron Vulnerability in ALS," Dr. Ozdinler spoke about the novel approaches being developed to understand cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for motor neuron degeneration.

Ozdinler, an assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University and director of the second Les Turner ALS Laboratory, has a vision and generous spirit that led Zi-Ning Choo, Lakshmi Katta, Ted Li, Maura Slattery, Rohil Tekriwal and Areen Pitaktong to conduct summer Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) investigations in ALS research with her and her team. Zi-Ning, Ted and Rohil are continuing their work throughout the present academic year.

Vivian Zhang, returning to Illinois and IMSA after her New York summer, is now pursuing her SIR investigation in the laboratory of Dr. Teepu Siddique, with Dr. Faisal Fecto; Siddique is the director of the first ALS Laboratory at Northwestern University. Read Vivian's interview about her internship at Project A.L.S. in New York in this issue of *IMSA360*.

Also, through the SIR program, Rahul Maheshwari and Sarah Martin are examining the immune system's role in ALS using a mouse model of the disease with Dr. Nichole Mesnard at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Many other IMSA students are pursuing SIR investigations in related areas, including immunology, neuroscience, and Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease research.



Dr. P. Hande Ozdinler

"The Student Inquiry and Research Program provides IMSA students with the opportunity to begin contributing to scientific investigations in important areas such as ALS research and cancer biology," said SIR Program Director Dr. Judy Scheppler. "IMSA students, by being supported in pursuing their passions now, are all the more likely to rapidly advance critical breakthroughs in the near future," she added.

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Harris Family Foundation Gift Largest in History of IMSA Fund

An interview with King Harris, a prominent Chicago business leader, civic leader and philanthropist, about his family's 20-year commitment to IMSA and its innovative programs, including the family's recent \$1 million donation to the Stephanie Pace Marshall Endowment to Ignite Innovation.



a family, that we favor gifts that "move the dial" – gifts that are transformative. We have

IMSA360: What factors influence you when considering whether or not to give to a philanthropic cause?

Harris: There is no simple answer to this question, but we can say, as

actively supported IMSA because we believe that IMSA's curriculum developments can influence the teaching of Math and Science at schools throughout the State of Illinois and, for that matter, the entire country.

IMSA360: Why was it important to give to the *Stephanie Pace Marshall Endowment*?

Harris: This endowment is going to focus on innovative learning, the main reason we have supported and continue to support IMSA.

IMSA Students Rise Up in the Fight Against ALS

IMSA students have led a number of innovative projects and advocacy initiatives in the fight against ALS.

The IMSA student movement *Shine On* promoted and participated in a variety of events in the fight against ALS throughout the year. Below is just a sample of some of those activities:

- Lou Gehrig Day at Wrigley Field
- ALS Cookout at Four Beans Coffee House
- Walk to Defeat ALS at Cantigny Park
- What's Up Doc Fundraising Campaign
- Stealing Pieces Exhibit in Chicago

In addition, IMSA's FIRST Robotics Team 2022, Titan Robotics, is leading a competition

to design and build a robotics device that will assist people with special needs such as ALS victims who have very limited use of their upper body. This year, the challenge will be to build a robotic device that people can use to feed themselves. Other area FIRST teams were invited and encouraged to participate and collaborate in this unique competition.

IMSA Great Minds Program® Alumni Panel on Orphan Diseases

Four IMSA alumni working in the field of orphan disease research came to IMSA in October to share their findings and stories as panelists in the IMSA Great Minds Program® Alumni Panel on Orphan Diseases. The program was sponsored by IMSA's Alumni Association (IAA), the student A.X.O.N. Neurology Club, the IMSA Development Office, the IMSA Great Minds Program and the student advocacy group *Shine On*.

As cited in *IMSA360* on the previous pages, an orphan disease is a rare disease which has not been “adopted” by the pharmaceutical industry because there are not enough patients to make drug development cost-effective. An orphan disease also can be a disease which is rare in the industrialized world but common and largely ignored in the developing world. These diseases face special challenges in attracting public attention, research and funding. Examples of serious orphan diseases are amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), cystic fibrosis and Tourette's syndrome.

To encourage industry to pursue treatments for rare diseases, Congress passed the Orphan Drug Act (ODA) in 1983 to provide financial and regulatory incentives to develop and market therapeutics for diseases that affect less than 200,000 Americans. Since the passage of the ODA in 1983, the FDA has approved more than 350 therapies for orphan diseases. Despite this progress, there are still an estimated 6,000–7,000 (or more) orphan diseases in need of effective treatments.

During the presentation, alumni panelists Dr. Irfan Qureshi '04, Dr. Jennifer Ellis Ward '93, Dr. Michael Wilson '94 and Meiyue Wu '94 shared their perspectives, stories and research findings with students, staff and guests. In addition, David Lockhart '90, a biostatistician, visited with students throughout the day to share his knowledge. Lockhart is the author of several peer-reviewed articles analyzing data on HIV, AIDS, Alzheimers, cardiac radiology and many other topics.

Dr. Ward, who developed her interest in research as an IMSA student, spoke about her interest in “re-purposing old drugs” for new uses. In addition to being more cost-effective, repurposing old drugs can also save time in the fight to find cures to orphan diseases.

“There are a lot of challenges in rare disease research...the overwhelmingly biggest one from my perspective is money,” said Dr. Ward. “Drug development and drug discovery...is incredibly expensive. When I first got involved with drug development the saying was ‘it takes 10 years and 10 million dollars to develop a new drug.’ Those numbers are significantly higher now.”

Dr. Irfan Qureshi spoke about epigenetics as “the next frontier” in scientific research.

Referencing the *Time* magazine article, “Why Your DNA Is Not Your Destiny,” Dr Qureshi spoke about how genes and the environment can interact and influence disease acquisition.

“What this means is that for almost every disease, there is an environmental component,” he said. “This is particularly true for those of the nervous system because the nervous system is more influenced by the environment than almost any other system.”

Dr. Qureshi went on to say that epigenetic therapeutic agents can “reprogram neural cells” and that most major drug companies have an epigenetic program.

IMSA President Max McGee applauded IMSA alumni panelists for advancing humanity through their amazing research contributions and reiterated a point to IMSA students in the audience.

“IMSA is educating you for careers that don't yet exist,” Dr. McGee said. “Twenty years ago, epigenetics didn't exist.”

To see the alumni presentations, visit <http://coolhub.imsa.edu/web/great-minds>.

IMSA360: What would you tell a potential donor who is undecided about whether to give to IMSA?

Harris: Philanthropists typically focus today on poor performing schools. While we, as a family, do support efforts to improve education for all, we are mindful of the fact that our top students are going to be the ones to keep America competitive and keep creating the jobs and industries we need. We must do everything we can to make sure our top schools improve.

IMSA360: Why is it so important to give to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education initiatives?

Harris: All you have to do is visit schools in places like Singapore, China, Korea and Germany to understand why STEM initiatives are so important. We live in a very, very competitive world. We must keep “raising the bar” at all our schools to remain a viable competitor.

IMSA360: Where do you see IMSA in the next 25 years?

Harris: Were I the governor of Illinois, I would be pushing to expand IMSA's leadership role in STEM education and enable it to reach and help develop even more top students in Illinois. We give tens of millions of dollars to retain businesses in Illinois but spend relatively little to create the innovative talent that can drive the expansion of Illinois business in the future.

IMSA Great Minds Program®

Alumni Panelists

Dr. Irfan Qureshi '94

Irfan is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology and an investigator for Brain Disorders and Neural Regeneration at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Jennifer Ellis Ward '93

Jennifer is a post-doctoral fellow in the Hematology/Oncology Section at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Michael Wilson '94

Michael is a neuro-infectious disease fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and at Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL). NEIDL is the federal government's newest biosafety level 4 facility, designed to study the most dangerous and deadly infectious agents.

Dr. Meiyu Wu '94

Meiyu is a staff scientist in the Department of Biotechnology and Bioengineering at Sandia National Laboratory in Livermore, CA.



Top Photo: (L to R) Dr. Jennifer Ellis Ward, IMSA Principal Dr. Eric McLaren, Dr. Michael Wilson, Dr. Meiyu Wu and Dr. Irfan Qureshi

Bottom Photo: Dr. Michael Wilson

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IMSA25 Calendar of Events

Celebrating 25 years of IMSA leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, IMSA held a number of events throughout the 2011–12 year.

Look for information on events throughout the 2011–12 year, including ways you can be involved and celebrate IMSA's 25th Anniversary!

www.imsa25.com

September 7, 2011

IMSA25 Community Birthday party
Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner Officially Proclaimed "IMSA Day" in Aurora, IL

October 21, 2011

IMSA Great Minds Program®
Alumni Panel on Orphan Diseases

December 2–3, 2011

IMSA Design Charrette for
Online Learning

December 5, 2011

IMSA Dodecahedron Day

January 9–13, 2012

IMSA Intersession

April 10, 2012

IMSA Great Minds Program®
Leon M. Lederman Frontiers of
STEM Symposium

April 14, 2012

IMSA25 Gala at St. Charles Country Club
benefiting the IMSA Energy Center and
IMSA FUSION

April 25, 2012

IMSAloquium

June 4, 2012

Commencement

IMSA Beyond Knowledge



FROM THE IMSA FUND PRESIDENT

John B. Hoesley '89
Managing Director, Silicon Valley Bank

Dear friends of IMSA,

This issue of *IMSA360* includes the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education's annual report for Fiscal Year 2011, a year in which we raised more than \$2 million including our largest commitment to date, a multi-year \$1 million pledge from the Harris Family Foundation of Chicago. On behalf of the IMSA Fund Board of Directors, I thank all donors who support IMSA's mission and work.

My journey with IMSA began more than a quarter of a century ago when as a teen, I heard about this start-up residential academy for Illinois students who were talented and interested in mathematics and science and thought "I'd like to go there!" Letting a child leave home three years earlier than his freshman year in college was a big decision. Thankfully my parents supported my application, fortunately I was admitted and went on to earn the IMSA diploma and academic medallion (Charter Class of 1989), and clearly this unique opportunity has profoundly influenced my academic path, life and work.

Today, as managing director with Silicon Valley Bank's Venture Capital and Private Equity Services Group in the Midwest, I see IMSA as much more than my alma mater. I see it as a strong and critical player in the region's and nation's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Many alumni are successful entrepreneurs, blazing new trails and creating jobs.

As a proud alumnus, donor, volunteer and advocate, one way I give back to IMSA is by serving as president of the IMSA Fund. Over the next few years, the Board will lead an initiative to build our Endowment (*Stephanie Pace Marshall Endowment to Ignite Innovation* and other endowed projects of interest to donors and to IMSA) and to support the IMSA Energy Center and IMSA FUSION. We're beginning this initiative now, during IMSA's 25th anniversary year; you can learn more at www.imsa25.com.

We have other giving opportunities as well and especially appreciate gifts to IMSA/IMSA Fund (Greatest Need Fund)



as these provide the most flexibility to fund high priorities that cannot be funded by other revenue sources. Please visit www.imsa.edu/giving.

Let me conclude by reflecting on a particular giving opportunity I supported in 2011, the cadha (cure a dreaded human ailment) fund. When I was a student at IMSA (1986–89) Eric McLaren was a resident counselor, responsible for nurturing our academic, social and personal development and for "keeping us in line." Twenty-five years later, he serves as principal and vice president for academic programs. As he bravely lives, works and leads with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), he is inspiring the next generation of talented students to take on tough challenges with passion and purpose. Eric has devoted his professional life to the potential and promise of the IMSA Classes of 1989–2014, and many IMSA alumni are now stepping up and giving back. We're coming full circle and paying it forward, in part to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

Thank you for your past support, and please join me in donating to the IMSA Fund this year.

John B. Hoesley '89
Managing Director, Silicon Valley Bank

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The internationally recognized Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy® (IMSA) develops creative, ethical leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As a teaching and learning laboratory created by the State of Illinois, IMSA enrolls academically talented Illinois students (grades 10–12) in its advanced, residential college preparatory program, and it serves thousands of educators and students in Illinois and beyond through innovative instructional programs that foster imagination and inquiry. IMSA also advances education through research, groundbreaking ventures and strategic partnerships. (www.imsa.edu)





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SAVE THE DATE for the Following IMSA Events!

Intersession	January 9–13, 2012
IMSA/Abbott Professional Development Day	March 2, 2012
IMSA 25th Anniversary Gala	April 14, 2012
IMSAloquium	April 25, 2012
Alumni Weekend	July 20–21, 2012

Includes Board of Trustees Alumni Awards Ceremony and Alumni Volunteers Recognition Dinner, and reunions for the Classes of 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007. To join a reunion planning committee, contact myimsa@imsa.edu. For information on IAA events, visit www.imsaalumni.org.



Celebrate 25 years of IMSA's leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education!

Look for information on events throughout the 2011–12 academic year, including ways you can be involved and celebrate IMSA's 25th Anniversary!

www.imsa25.com



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