



Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 Sullivan Road
Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000

Although we strive for accuracy, if you see an error in your mailing label, please call the Office of Marketing and Communications at 630-907-5033.

Save The Date

FOR THE FOLLOWING IMSA EVENTS!

TALENT Power Pitch Finals at 1871 Chicago

April 29, 2014

IMSA Class of 2014 Commencement

May 31, 2014

Alumni Weekend

July 18-20, 2014

Includes reunions for the Classes of 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009.

To join a reunion planning committee, contact myimsa@imsa.edu

For information on IAA events, visit www.imsaalumni.org

360 Goes Green

Help the 360 magazine go green! If we have your current email address, you will now receive the magazine digitally, with bonus online content, news, and features as soon as they're published. If you'd still like 360 mailed to you in print form, or need to update your contact information, please visit www.imsaalumni.org/360.

For more content and important updates, find us online at

www.imsa.edu



360: 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.



360

**Pay it
Forward**

04
IMSA welcomes Peruvian
orphans into its family

06
Steve Chen speaks—
how IMSA experience
led to \$1 million gift

11
Parents donate to help
rural and minority students

AT
ISSUE

Pay It Forward

The Greek playwrights wrote of the beautiful selfless concept of "paying it forward" as early as approximately 300 B.C. Later, Ben Franklin and Ralph Waldo Emerson also wrote of its honor. The actual phrase "pay it forward" likely was first penned by the author Lily Hardy Hammond in 1916.

Saying "thank you" to someone who gave you a gift of money or kindness, but who does not expect or even wish to be repaid, by returning the favor to someone else...thus "paying it forward"...is alive and well at IMSA. This issue of 360 showcases several acts of kindness and generosity that pay it forward and will continue to do so for years to come.

Alumni continue to say "thank you" to their former faculty and staff and others who supported them by volunteering time and making donations to IMSA, which in turn help new faculty and staff—and students. One extraordinary gift, from Steve Chen '96, is the focus of an article in this issue that you will enjoy not only for the size of the generosity, but also for the vision and creativity behind it.

Parents of current students and alumni continue to say "thank you" for all that IMSA faculty, staff and others did to help their children during their years of enrollment and often well after graduation. One such story of heartwarming thoughtfulness features the Lorentzen family; this major gift from the parents of two alumni and the special purpose it will support is a model of "pay it forward" at its finest.

With strong public and private support, IMSA provides unique opportunities, countless resources and for many, life-changing experiences. In addition to developing world-class talent in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as other fields, IMSA prepares learners and leaders to "pay it forward." It is not enough to master the complexities of the atom, the compounds of a chemical and the intricacies of an equation; it is arguably as or more important to master the simple grace of being kind in exchange for goodness shown by another.

Paying it forward may be one of the greatest and most rewarding lessons of all. Enjoy the gift of reading these remarkable stories!



CATHERINE C. VEAL
IMSA President



The mission of IMSA, the world's leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.

360 is published by the IMSA Office of Marketing and Communications and sent free to alumni and friends of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. Send comments, questions or story ideas to Mike Abrahamson at mabrahamson@imsa.edu.

MAGAZINE STAFF

Executive Editor, Christina Kaucnik
Managing Editor, Mike Abrahamson
Contributing Writers: Mike Abrahamson,
Lisa Hellman, Carolyn Johnson,
Christina Kaucnik, Paul Milano,
Catherine C. Veal

PHOTOGRAPHY

Courtesy of IMSA/Chris Reader
(unless otherwise noted)

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Sandbox Studio, Chicago, Illinois

IMSA Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Chairman
Sheila MB Griffin
Executive VP, Griffin
Holdings, Inc.

First Vice Chairman
Dr. Paula
Olszewski-Kubilius
Director, Center for
Talent Development,
Northwestern University

Second Vice Chairman
Dr. Erin W. Roche '89
Principal, Prescott
Magnet Cluster School

TRUSTEES

Eric R. Brown, M.S. Ed
Biology Teacher,
Evanston Township
High School #202

Dr. Jerome "Jay"
Budzik '95
Chief Technology Officer,
Twelvetfold Media

Kathy He
Chief Executive Officer,
Vivregen LLC

Dr. Steven T. Isoye
Superintendent, Oak Park
and River Forest High
School District 200

Leslie N. Juby
Substitute Teacher,
Batavia, IL
Public Schools

Dr. Mary Kalantzis
Dean, College
of Education,
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Carey L. Mayer '90
Architectural Group
Leader, Dewberry
Architects

Dr. Luis Núñez
Consultant, BioTarget
and LNK Chemsolutions
LLC

Ana Rodriguez, Esq.
Senior Vice President,
Global Human
Resources of Molex, Inc.

Dr. Marsha R. Rosner
Charles B. Huggins
Professor, Ben May
Department for Cancer
Research, The
University of Chicago

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Karen Hunter
Anderson, Executive
Director, Illinois
Community College
Board

CONTENTS

Dr. James L. Applegate,
Executive Director,
Illinois Board of Higher
Education

Dr. Christopher Koch,
State Superintendent,
Illinois State Board of
Education

Dr. James Rydland,
Superintendent,
West Aurora School
District 129

PRESIDENT
Catherine C. Veal

**IMSA Fund
for Advancement
of Education**

OFFICERS
President, John
Hoesley '89
Managing Director,
Silicon Valley Bank

Vice President, Pamela
Blackwell
CEO, Blackwell
Management Solutions
Vice President
Blackwell Global
Consulting

Treasurer,
Michael Suh '97
Index Derivatives
Trader, Wells Fargo

Secretary (Non-Voting),
Paul Milano
Executive Director of
Development, IMSA

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**
Anil Ahuja
President, CCJM
Engineering

Aziz Asphahani
CEO, QuesTek
Innovations LLC

Bill Becker
Founder and CEO,
Aerotecture
International Inc.

Steve Chen '96
Co-founder, AVOS
Systems

Steve Collens
Senior Vice President,
Pritzker Group

Ross Hemphill, Ph.D.
VP, Energy Acquisi-
tions, Com Ed

Mana Ionescu
President, Lightspan
Digital

Stephanie Pace
Marshall, Ph.D.
Founding President
and President Emerita,
IMSA

Glenn W. "Max" McGee,
Ph.D., Principal,
Princeton International
School of Mathematics
and Science

Dan Mueh, Ph.D. '90
Senior Director
Diagnostics
Development Team
Leader, Janssen
Diagnostics

Joseph Nolan
Chief Commercial
Officer, Lundbeck, Inc.

Jacob Plummer '96
Vice President,
Business Development,
Allscripts

Andre Reynolds
Vice President, Federal
Reserve Bank of
Chicago

Glenn Rippie, J.D.
Partner and CFO,
Rooney Rippie &
Ratnaswamy LLP

Aalap Shah
Co-founder, SoMe
Connect

Kim Taylor
President, Chicago
Mercantile Exchange
(CME) Clearing

Alex Weiner
Managing Partner,
INBALANCE Buildings,
LLC

Sam Yagan '95
Chief Executive Officer,
Match Group (Match.com)

**EX-OFFICIO
DIRECTORS
(NON-VOTING)**
JuliAnn Geldner, J.D.,
Liaison to IMSA
Parent Association
Council (PAC)
IMSA PAC President,
Legal Counsel/
Practice Administrator,
The Geldner Center

Melissa Comenduley '90
Liaison to IMSA Alumni
Association (IAA),
Project/Program
Manager,
Broadway Technology

Luis Núñez, Ph.D.,
Liaison to IMSA Board
of Trustees
IMSA Board of
Trustees, Consultant,
BioTarget and LNK
Chemsolutions LLC

04 Feature



06 Feature



08 Alumni Corner



11 Campus News





FAMILY TIES

The bond between a Peruvian orphanage and IMSA students creates unforgettable experiences and lifelong relationships.

“The first time I met her I fell in love with her,” said Junior Luselena Perez about Joanka, an eight-year-old Peruvian orphan who Luselena reconnected with during IMSA’s trip to Peru this winter intersession. “We’re very close—she calls me ‘tia,’ which means aunt in Spanish, or refers to me as Godmother.”

On December 28th, Luselena was part of the group of twelve students, two alumni, and two chaperones that embarked on a service trip to the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) orphanage in Cañete, Peru. The ten-day trip to NPH is one of the six yearly trips conducted by IMSA’s robust service learning program.

After a long flight from Chicago to Lima, and then a three-hour bus ride to their hotel in Cañete, one would think that the IMSA travelers would be tired; instead, they were brimming with excitement to make the ten-minute walk from the hotel to the orphanage, some for the first time. Others, like Luselena, were eager to see the kids

they bonded with in years past and had kept in contact with throughout the year.

The IMSA group excitedly introduced themselves to the 90 Peruvians, and then immediately jumped into their daily routine, eating with them, touring the NPH home and property, and learning about their lives. Rather than having an adjustment period, orphans of all ages clamored to include the IMSA students in their meals and various activities, and they bonded faster than the students thought possible. “What made this trip so unique for me was that I was able to make connections with so many of the kids at the orphanage in such little time,” remarked Junior Mayuri Yasuda. “I never thought that I would be able to form amazing relationships with kids I knew for a little over a week.”

Within the week the orphans were calling the IMSA students “tio” and “tia,” and the students in turn used this term to describe the caretaker of the orphanage, who Mayuri also said she became “extremely close with.” Upon leaving, many

Cañete is a province in southern Peru. The NPH Orphanage is in San Vicente, a town three hours south of Lima.



of the students had found "godchildren" who they still write and send money to every month, and reunite with if possible, as Luselena and Joanka emotionally did at the beginning of the trip. So how were they able to forge such fast and deep relationships?

Kristen DeBellis, a former Resident Counselor who has led all five yearly trips to NPH Peru, and five before that to other NPH locations, explained how they form these bonds so quickly. "These trips are unique because of our focus on the children, not touring the country or seeing the popular sites, or even language development, although that can be a perk. We spent the majority of our time in the orphanage, we partake in the daily lives of the children, and the focus is spending time with them, becoming a part of their life for that week. It sounds simple, but it is so powerful, so life-changing, and so important."

The students and orphans did work projects together throughout the week, such as painting their playground, doing yard work, and sanding and staining picnic benches. One of the most common ways the Americans and Peruvians bonded, though, was by making rubber band friendship bracelets. While they twisted together rubber bands into intricate patterns, the orphans and IMSA students alike shared the details of their past and current lives, sometimes fun, and often painful for the Peruvians, as many of the orphans live through intense poverty and abuse before landing at NPH. "When we were teaching them how to make bracelets, they really opened up to us," said Luselena. "I still have the bracelets, from this year and from last year, to remember the trip and the children."

The IMSA students spent almost every moment of eight of their ten days in Peru with children at NPH, who were on winter break from school. The other two days they had the option of exploring the picturesque town of Lunahuana, going to the beach, and whitewater rafting, though some students opted out of these days to spend more time with the children of NPH.

The 10 days flew by for many, and leaving was difficult, with tears flowing

on both sides as everyone struggled to say their last goodbyes. The children of Peru asked when the IMSA students would be back, and many of them vowed to return. Though the IMSA students are home now, these emotions haven't easily faded from either side, as Kristen, who plans on going to NPH for her 11th trip next year, knows. "Each time we visit, the children ask about IMSA students from previous years. They still ask about some students from five years ago! That means those students made them feel loved. And there is nothing more important than that."

Though the orphans have had arduous paths in life, the IMSA students bonded with them over some common experiences, including being thankful for their opportunities and wanting to give back because of them. "The NPH home reminded me of IMSA in certain ways," Mayuri said. "In both situations, students live away from their families and are forced to live more independently than they ever had before. The students form incredible bonds with the other students and staff members that live with them, just like at IMSA. Sometimes, I don't appreciate everything we are offered at IMSA. I've realized that IMSA provides us with incredible care and opportunities that students should appreciate every day. In a way, I felt like I was giving back and thanking society by going to the NPH home because I have been blessed with what IMSA has given me."

Mayuri, like Luselena, now sponsors a nine-year-old named Joel, who calls her Godmother in their monthly correspondences.



SERVICE LEARNING opportunities at IMSA

ECUADOR

San Juan School
July 2013

PERU

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos
January 2014

PITTSBURGH, PA

Students Today Leaders Forever
February 2014

GUATEMALA

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos
March 2014

GOLDSBORO, NC

Habitat for Humanity
March 2014



▶ A Passion to Succeed



Steve Chen '96 went from studying at IMSA to being an early employee of PayPal, co-founding YouTube and selling it to Google, and is now the co-founder of AVOS Systems, Inc.

This winter Chen generously designated a \$1,000,000 lead gift to IMSA for the construction of a \$1.9 million, 6,400 sq. ft. Innovation Lab, which will foster STEM collaboration and development.

IMSA ▶ What was your IMSA experience like, and how has it carried over into your professional life?

Mr. Chen ▶ IMSA was terrific, and it was tremendous for my development. It's totally unique in nature, and I wouldn't have developed many skills that I use in startups now if I hadn't spent three years there. One skill that's especially useful for me now is becoming comfortable in situations where you know almost nothing, figuring out what knowledge and reasoning to apply to work toward an answer, all while making quick decisions. Quick decision making, as well

as encouraging curiosity and willingness to go out on a limb, are very important skills to teach an entrepreneur.

In entrepreneurship there is a fine line between craziness and success—for me, when I was creating YouTube, I was up against doubtful voices that said "I can't believe that you're trying to deliver videos online, on your own credit card." Had it not been for IMSA, along with my time at PayPal and in Silicon Valley, I might not have recognized that I should give it a shot, and that I would regret it if I didn't go for it.

How have you been involved with IMSA and its alumni since attending?

My main IMSA connection is with most of the companies that I started and worked with out here in the Bay Area, such as PayPal, YouTube, or AVOS,

which have been significantly staffed with alumni from IMSA's class of '96, plus or minus a few years. In that way I've kept close ties and friendships with people that I met in those years.

You've visited IMSA's campus and met with students a few times recently. What impression did you get from these students and your interactions?

Working with Summer Wu [Class of '13 and current AVOS intern], and having conversations with students like Jason Lin [Class of '13 and founder of WikiRoster], make me forget that these kids are actually kids. For example, when Summer came on board with AVOS she was more or less treated not as a 17-year-old intern that has never worked for a startup, but like a software engineer who had already graduated from a computer science program. She took on the responsibilities of a full-time, long-term employee in such a way that I was often taken aback. Jason was the same way when I met with him, and I think many IMSA students are that way—one product of the Innovation Lab is that I'm

have the greatest impact on for the amount I'm donating. Looking back, IMSA was one of the few things in my life that really stood out in this way.

What particularly about IMSA will make it a successful site for the Innovation Lab?

I think that one of the most important parts of entrepreneurship is having a starting point, an important new idea to bring to the world. Before our work at PayPal, for example, processing online payment in that way had never been done before, but we had the idea, and we achieved it. I think IMSA kids are ripe with novel ideas that they would like to develop, and that the environment at IMSA will make it an ideal place to support students' entrepreneurial ideas.

That's not to say that every student with startup ideas will go on to create a PayPal or YouTube, but they may have ideas that could become successful in their own right. I think that the Innovation Lab can be a place that fosters these ideas, connecting students with resources and mentors who can help develop them.

phase. I know that students will have these kinds of ideas too, but for whatever reason they are discouraged in certain ways from actually following through with them. The Innovation Lab is designed to encourage kids to actually see their ideas through.

Your gift for the Innovation Lab is a lead donation, with the rest of the funds coming from the IMSA community and its partners. How would you encourage the IMSA community to support and become involved in the Innovation Lab?

Most of the alums that I keep in contact with say that IMSA was a positively transformative experience which led them to successful careers, guiding them in their fields the same way it helped me. For this reason, I think that alumni and community members that identify with the drive and passion of current IMSA students will recognize the Innovation Lab's potential to create a spark for those interested in the field of entrepreneurship and will see this as a great philanthropic opportunity.

“I think IMSA kids are ripe with novel ideas that they would like to develop, and that the environment at IMSA will make it an ideal place to support students' entrepreneurial ideas.”

hoping we can get even more students to think and act with that kind of confidence and responsibility.

What was the impetus for the Innovation Lab project and donation?

It took a little bit of time for me to fully realize how IMSA affected me; I had to let the dust settle on my education a bit. After the acquisition of YouTube by Google, I knew I wanted to do something to give back, and so I had to think about what organization has had the greatest impact on me, which I could

How will the Innovation Lab support students who are interested in starting a tech company while at IMSA?

It's essential that any young entrepreneur has the kind of experience where their ideas are thoroughly supported. I'm almost certain if Chad [Hurley] and I had the idea of uploading videos to the internet around 1990 or 2000, before we had our experience seeing PayPal grow from an idea to a successful business, YouTube never would have happened. It would have just stayed in the idea

I know that if I was a student now I would be heavily involved with the Innovation Lab. Like me, I think that five or ten years down the road students who benefit from it will step back and realize how helpful it was for them, how much it added to their IMSA experience, and they will want to give back to this unique institution, as well.

 Bonus content available online at sites.imsa.edu/imsa360

SPRING ACTIVITIES



MELVIN BACANI '90
CIO, Leeward
Pointe Capital
president@
imsaalumni.org

This summer will be the first time IMSA alumni celebrate five milestone reunions—which include our first 25th reunion for the charter class of 1989. With 25 graduated classes, the IMSA Alumni Association (IAA) has been expanding our programs for alumni beyond support for our yearly reunions. We are now looking at different needs of alumni at different touch points during their years post-IMSA.

In the past six months, we've held regional alumni events in Chicago, New York, Indianapolis, San Francisco, and St. Louis. These events not only help keep both our young and more mature alumni connected with others in their region, but they also serve as a gateway for alumni to reconnect back to IMSA even at a distance.

Last year, I went through a career change when I helped start a new commodities trading firm. Starting a new venture is not easy, and I realized that my IMSA network is more than a social network. Social interactions are just the beginning for our alumni. We are finding more alumni needing connections at a professional level as well—from searching for college internship opportunities to experienced career changes. That's why we've expanded our footprint into LinkedIn. There we have established industry-level interest groups where alumni can share directed conversations, career advice, as well as job opportunities with other alumni in their respective fields of interest. We will also be publishing articles to help alumni with career coaching, self-assessment, and virtual resume reviews. In addition to these enhancements, the alumni profiles, which are posted on the alumni website at www.imsaalumni.org, may include advice on topics such as pursuing a non-STEM career, alternative careers in medicine, or maybe even interviewing hints.

As we continue to grow our programs, we welcome ideas to refine them. To learn more about these IAA activities or to get involved, please visit the alumni website. You can also update your information there if you've moved, changed jobs or changed emails. Watch for Alumni Weekend activities to be posted on the website and hopefully, we'll see you there!

Alumni Reunion Weekend

Reunions are about celebrating—a time to recognize where you've been and what you've accomplished. They're also about reconnecting over shared stories, creating new memories with long-lost friends, and sharing your passion for IMSA with your loved ones.

Registration begins online Thursday, May 1, 2014. Be sure to update your personal information at www.imsaalumni.org so that IMSA stays connected to you and you receive the most up-to-date Alumni Weekend information as it becomes available.

Interested in volunteering at Alumni Weekend? Contact Lisa at lhellman@imsa.edu.

 Need more details? 630-907-5040,
myimsa@imsa.edu or imsaalumni.org

IMSA Alumni Association Executive Officers 2013-2015

PRESIDENT
Melvin Bacani '90

VICE PRESIDENT
Amanda Murphy '03

SECRETARY
Claire Wang '93

TREASURER
Melissa Comenduley '90

IAA At-Large Cabinet Members 2013-2014

Samuel Berger '07
Tiffany (Mayo)
Chambers '99
Reginald Champagne '02
Kevin Colby '95
Cati Crawford '09
Theresa Geiger '07
Matthew Isoda '02
Amy Kinney '95
Sarah McPike '07
Stephanie Song '06

JULY 18–20,
2014

FRIDAY, JULY 18

"PRE-REUNION" CLASS GATHERINGS

The reunion years invite neighboring class years to join informal gatherings at various locations in Chicagoland

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Campus Events

- Q & A with President Cathy Veal
- The IMSA Alumni Association Annual Meeting
- The IMSA Alumni Association Luncheon
- Residence Hall Tours
- Archives Open House and Dessert, Children's Activities

Reunions for the Classes of 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Post-reunion Activities

ALUMNI NOTES

SOPH R. DAVENBERRY '89 got married in June 2013 and was also honored with a 15-year member pin from Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (less than 5% of sheet metal workers are women).

MELVIN BACANI '90 helped start a new commodities trading firm, Leeward Pointe Capital, and is the CIO.

LASHANYA AIKERSON SULLIVAN '90 is CEO of Aikerson Consulting Group, Inc. and is currently consulting with Coca-Cola in the creation of an IT Center of Excellence to enhance collaboration with more than 2,000 Coca-Cola IT employees.

CARYN HAVLIK '91 was signed to the record label Relapse as part of the band Mortals.

RAY STADT '93, a student-centered high school chemistry teacher who uses the inquiry approach for boosting student learning, was featured in a video for Northern Illinois University's E-TEAMS (Empowering Teachers to Enhance Adolescents' Motivation for Science).



Afghanistan veteran, Army Ranger, and Special Forces "Green Beret" Major **VINCENT ENRIQUEZ '99** was the guest speaker at IMSA's Veterans Day program on November 11, 2013.



CLARA SHIH '00 and **SAM YAGAN '95** were named to *Fast Company's* list of Most Creative People in Business: 1000.

SASHA EMMONS '93 has been named Editor-in-Chief of *Today's Parent Magazine*.

JASON M. JEDLINSKI '95 joined News Distribution Network as Senior Vice President of Marketplace Development.

ELIZABETH R. KARNIK '95 welcomed son Benjamin Gerhard Karnik to the family February 5, 2013. He was 6lbs., 15ozs., and 20" long. Benjamin joins Elizabeth, Gary, Kayley and Sam the dog.

SAM YAGAN '95 and **JESSICA DROSTE YAGAN '95** welcomed son Max Droste Yagan on January 24, 2014. He joins big sister Maggie and big brother Jack.

KUMAR JAVVAJI '97 welcomed his second son, Andrew Surya Javvaji, on October 25, 2013.

DERRICK K. TUNG '98 was elected in September 2013 to serve on the Executive Board of Access Community Health Networks, one of the largest Federally Qualified Health Centers in the U.S. that provides affordable healthcare to the uninsured and underserved.

GUSTAVO SETRINI '99 accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Food Studies program at NYU in the fall of 2013 after working as a post-doc at MIT doing research on the Puerto Rican economy.

JEFF MARGOLIS '00 is the Managing Director at the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, which is partnering with IMSA to provide unique opportunities in STEM education for Illinois students, teachers and mentors.

LAVINA JADHWANI '01 was named *Time Out Chicago's* Best Next-Generation Stage Director.

CHARLES HWANG '01 is working in London after getting married and earning an MBA at the University of Chicago.

SUMMER WU '13 was featured in an *Android Central* article for DropDot, her first published game. Summer has taken the past year as a gap year to intern for Steve Chen's ('96) company AVOS Systems, Inc., before heading to Yale this fall.



DAN KADOR '02, RYAN SPRAETZ '02, AND KYLE WILD '02, who were once roommates at IMSA, launched company Keen IO and secured \$2.35 million in financing. *WIRED* and *Venture Beat* featured their company's story this year. Keen IO hosted IMSA students on their recent Intersession trip.

 What's new in your life? Submit your class notes at imsaalumni.org/notes

GIVING BACK



When IMSA Receives, Lives Change

We've seen it and heard it before. "Becoming a part of the IMSA community has changed my life." Students say it, feel it; faculty, staff, parents, alumni and everyone involved in growing and graduating 225 special students every year know it—every new crop of students will leave with a confidence few others their age possess and no fear of challenging the status quo. They will question, solve, and care. They are ready and have the drive and desire to change our world.

Mingling with a diverse student population from around Illinois also offers IMSA students an even wider view of our world—much more than they would receive in their home schools. It positions them for greater success, but no matter what background they come from, one truth remains constant, they're here for the independent STEM teaching and learning experience IMSA has provided for over a quarter century. They quickly learn that they own their time at IMSA and their future.

Inquiry-driven, integrative STEM teaching in a residential setting is exactly what David Lorentzen and Katherine Hove, brother and sister alumni, classes of 2010 and 2001, respectively, had in mind too. Their time at IMSA proved to be life-changing—so much so that their family has decided to give others the same gift, especially those from the under-resourced and under-represented areas of Illinois.

Inquiry-driven, integrative STEM teaching in a residential setting is exactly what David Lorentzen and Katherine Hove, brother and sister alumni, classes of 2010 and 2001, respectively, had in mind too. Their time at IMSA proved to be life-changing—so much so that their family has decided to give others the same gift, especially those from the under-resourced and under-represented areas of Illinois.

David and Katherine's parents, John Lorentzen and Penney Fillmer of Deer Grove, Illinois, are donating the value of the costs for sending their two children for three years each to IMSA. They are particularly earmarking this generous gift to help support recruitment of rural, African-American, and Hispanic students. Also coming from a rural community, David Lorentzen went through IMSA's Excel program prior to starting at IMSA. This developed in him a greater awareness of the needs of minority and rural student populations.

Currently, David is attending the University of Chicago, majoring in mathematics and statistics, and plans to graduate in 2014. Katherine also attended the University of Chicago, and is now working to start a democratic free school on the south side of Chicago.

"For our family, giving back to IMSA in a way that helps rural and minority students create a difference in their lives by attending IMSA, is something we had to do to honor the amazing learning experience our own children had there," said John Lorentzen and Penney Fillmer.

IMSA has been experiencing an increase over the past several years from grateful parents and alumni both through one-time major gifts like the Lorentzens'

67%

of IMSA parents
contributed in 2013

20%

increase over 2012

16%

of Alumni contributed
in 2013

05%

increase over 2012

ALUMNI LOVE LETTERS

We asked alumni about their fondest memories of IMSA, and received dozens of fantastic responses! The rest can be found online at sites.imsa.edu/imsa360.

From eating crepes beneath the Eiffel Tower with Madame Crosby's French class to blasting cars (and a short bus) fashioned out of wooden blocks down the hall behind Mr. Lawrence's classroom, memories from IMSA—and the capacity to keep asking questions, from "Avez-vous la Nutella?" to "What if we use way more fire power?"—are with me today. Along with the dirty socks of my IMSA spouse. Thanks a lot, Illinois.

AMANDA MURPHYAO, CLASS OF 2003

As I get ready to graduate from college, it is still shocking to me how many of my successes and accomplishments I can credit back to my time at IMSA. Somewhere between all of the roommate conversations, the Student Council elections, and the problem sets, IMSA gave me a confidence in myself and my ability to change the world that no other school could have. I am a fundamentally different—and fundamentally better—person for having attended, and I am forever grateful for the experience.

SID SAPRU, CLASS OF 2010



Bonus content available online at
sites.imsa.edu/imsa360

ISAC ANNOUNCES 160 STATE SCHOLARS FROM IMSA

The Illinois State Assistance Commission (ISAC) announced the 2014–15 State Scholar Finalists, and 160 IMSA students were identified through a combination of exemplary college entrance examination scores and their high school achievement records. The announcement of 2014–15 Illinois State Scholars are meant to indicate an especially high potential for success in college.



SENIOR STEVEN TAN MAKES HISTORY IN WINNING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN SWIMMING

Senior Steven Tan became the first swimmer in IMSA history to get first place in state on February 29th, swimming the 100 yard butterfly in 48.43 seconds, as well as finishing second in the 100 backstroke. For his exemplary performance in the pool and in the classroom, Comcast Sportsnet awarded him Allstate Athlete of the Week honors. Steven, who will be attending Harvard University in the fall, is now the second IMSA athlete to finish first in state.

IMSA STUDENTS COMPETE, WIN AT MSI'S "WHO WANTS TO BE A MATHEMATICIAN"

Junior Emily Mu was one of only 10 contestants selected nationwide, and the only female, to earn an all-expense paid trip to compete in the "Who Wants to be a Mathematician" contest. She performed admirably in the Baltimore competition, which took place in January. Two other IMSA students, Ka Wai (Joanne) Lee and Anton Karpovich qualified for next year's national competition, and Karpovich took home \$3,000 and a Texas Instruments Nspire Calculator for his perfect performance in the qualifying round.

JUNIOR VINESH KANNAN TIES FOR FIRST PLACE IN STATE AT EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Vinesh Kannan tied for first place in Extemporaneous Speaking at the IHSA State Speech Tournament in Peoria on February 22nd. Vinesh shared the honor with two other students in a rare three-way tie. The IHSA State Champion and NSDA National Qualifier had an excellent year overall in competition, placing first in eight tournaments and finishing in the top three an impressive thirteen times.



IMSA WINS HISTORY BOWL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, PLACES 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD IN U.S. BEE

IMSA participated in its first National History Bee and Bowl (NHBB) state competition and dominated, winning both the Bowl and the Bee events. IMSA's bowl team of Anton Karpovich, Varun Iyer, Andrew Salij, and Waleed Ali went undefeated to win the State Championship in the Bowl, and Waleed Ali, Anton Karpovich, and Andrew Salij got first, second, and third respectively in the Bee.



IMSA COMES FROM BEHIND TO WIN STATE QUIZ BOWL TOURNAMENT

IMSA came from behind to beat its rival, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, capturing the title of first place in Illinois for the second straight year. The National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) competition was held on February 22, featuring the top 40 teams in Illinois competing at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Going into the final question, IMSA was trailing, but they answered quickly and correctly, pulling ahead by five points to win first place.