

snapshots *of* success

examples of IMSA Women Graduates



Lynn Sosa '94

forward

Searching for a cure for cancer in the heart of a cell, analyzing the ecology of Illinois tall grass prairies, engineering Illinois products to precise specifications, or volunteering to help others, IMSA graduates contribute in myriad ways.

The vignettes offer an in-depth look at several graduates, and the snapshots provide some more glimpses. Women tell how the IMSA experience enabled them to develop confidence to meet academic and personal challenges, succeed in a rigorous academic environment, and grow with the many opportunities IMSA made available.

Thank you to Cathy Veal of the President's Office for the concept and ideas. Thank you to the following persons for information: Lisa Pena and Britta McKenna of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Public Policy; Principal Eric McLaren; Jay Thomas, Jill Mosshamer, and Dr. Steven Cordogan of the Office of Research and Evaluation; Dr. LuAnn Smith and Babs Cleary of the College and Academic Counseling Center; and Dr. Peggy Connolly of the Mentorship Office. Thank you to Jean Bigger of the Furnas Information Resource Center for cover and photo page designs.

This booklet was compiled from the results of the IMSA Alumni Survey and other records in the Alumni Office, personal communications, phone interviews, and records in the IMSA Archives.

Here are the voices of some of the women of IMSA as they embark on their post-IMSA lives and careers. I hope you will enjoy reading their stories as much as I enjoyed hearing and compiling them!

*Marti Guarin, Editor
IMSA Charter Librarian and Archivist
February 2000*

dear IMSA stakeholder

It is a special joy for me to introduce you to a sample of our women graduates, remarkable young women who blossomed in IMSA's unique learning environment and who now are becoming leaders and stewards in their respective fields.

We are especially proud of their achievements in mathematics, science and technology-related fields; fields in which women have historically been under-represented. Even today, too few female students are invited into mathematics, science and technology majors and careers. Although the numbers are improving, the gender gap is still far too wide. Fortunately, IMSA's female students and women graduates are debunking old myths and excelling in these fields.



In 1985, the Illinois General Assembly established IMSA and charged it with two responsibilities: to offer a uniquely challenging education for students talented in mathematics and science; and to stimulate further excellence for all Illinois schools in the areas of science and mathematics.

Building on our statutory charge, we established our mission: to transform teaching and learning in mathematics and science through a unique means, by developing ethical leaders who understand the joy of discovering and forging connections within and among mathematics, science, the arts and humanities. Today, IMSA models and helps others develop a learning environment that engages the fullness of each student's potential; honors and celebrates learners' questions; stimulates curiosity, risk, exploration and adventure; and asks students to contribute to the creation of a compassionate and sustainable world that works for everyone.

Through their vocations and avocations, these young women embody not only our mission but also our vision: to liberate the goodness and genius of all children for the world. I hope you enjoy reading these vignettes and snapshots, and I invite you to join us as advocates and partners in developing and nurturing talent in all its remarkable forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Pace Marshall".

Stephanie Pace Marshall, Ph.D.
President

on the road to success

We are proud to present vignettes of alumnae from these communities.

Chicago

Rockford

South Barrington

Palatine

Aurora

Moline

Somonauk

Bolingbrook

Dallas City

New Lenox

Chatham

East St. Louis

Marion

map design by jean bigger

photos from the IMSA yearbooks courtesy of the IMSA archives

some facts about **IMSA** *women*

Since its inception, IMSA has graduated more than 2000 students. Ninety-nine percent of IMSA graduates enroll in college following high school graduation, and nearly two-thirds earn degrees in either mathematics or science—significantly higher than the population at large and over four times as high among women.

The most recent data from the National Center for Educational Statistics indicate that for all graduates (male and female combined) the percentage of mathematics-related degrees earned is 3%, and the percentage of science-related degrees is 23%. For IMSA female graduates from 1989 through 1995, the percentage of mathematics-related degrees earned is 7% and the percentage of science-related degrees is 48%.

quick **facts**

- Mentorship requires research and presentations at professional conferences. More than 50% of students in mentorships the last several years have been female.
- IMSA's first Rhodes Scholar is female.
- IMSA's first Westinghouse Science Talent Search Finalist is female.
- IMSA's first Westinghouse Science Talent Search Winner is female.

Rowan Lockwood

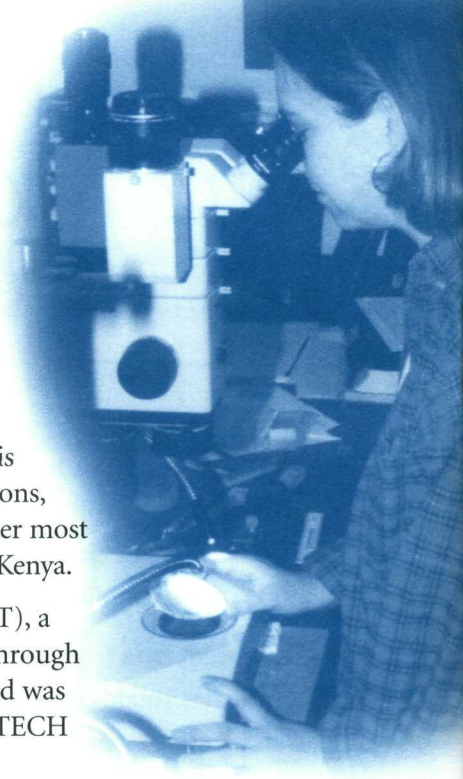
Rockford, Winnebago County



Rowan Lockwood '89 is working toward her PhD in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago. She was a Marshall Scholar at the University of Bristol, UK, graduating with an MSc. Degree by Research in the Joint School of Palaeontology. She graduated cum laude with a BA in Geology and in Organismal Biology at Yale, with honors in both majors.

Lockwood has presented papers at several national and international conferences and has published in professional journals. Her research is supported by paleontological, malacological and systematics associations, including Sigma Xi and the American Museum of Natural History. Her most memorable experience was fossil hominid hunting in the Rift Valley, Kenya.

She is the founder and former director of Science and Math Achiever Teams (SMaRT), a national service program which motivates inner-city children in math and science through hands-on creative long-term projects with university volunteers. At IMSA, Lockwood was a Top 40 Winner in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search and a winner in the INTECH Chicago Science Competition.



Rowan Lockwood

Alvia Romious

East St. Louis, St. Clair County

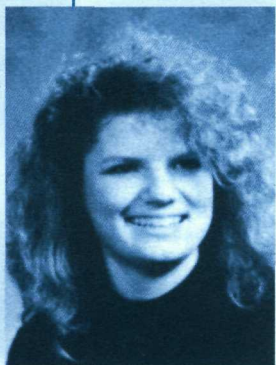


Alvia Romious '89 writes: "Since graduating from IMSA, I have had great opportunities. After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University, I worked for 5 years as an engineer for a food company, CPC International. I got the tools I needed to understand manufacturing and industry. I learned enough about business to realize I wanted to learn more and pursued an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. I am now working as a Corporate finance Associate for Bank One Corporation. I can honestly say that attending IMSA has given me the educational edge and curiosity to continue on a path of lifetime learning and growth. My career path has only just begun.

"I am in the Energy and Utilities division of Bank One. My division is concentrated on the fixed income side of the capital markets. My work involves preparing presentations for our customers that illustrates the bank's capabilities for the firm's needs. As bankers and corporate finance specialists, our job is to be financial advisors to our institutional clients. We provide the analysis and recommendation for the best financial funding that will suitably meet both the company's long and short term financing goals."

Jennifer Nesbitt

Chatham, Sangamon County



Jennifer Nesbitt '89 is currently on a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship at the University of Illinois, working on a PhD in Ecology and Evolution, on avian reproduction. She holds a BA in Biology from the University of Chicago. She has done field work in avian ecology at Illinois's Midewian National Tallgrass Prairie, at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, and in California, Idaho and Australia.

"Tropical forests are being destroyed at a rapid rate, greatly impacting the bird communities that reside in them. By gaining a greater understanding of the reproductive needs of tropical birds, I hope to contribute to their conservation. The career of an ecologist is not just a job—it's an entire lifestyle. The field season is a strenuous, rapid-pace scramble to collect as much data as possible within a three-month breeding season. The rest of the year consists of long hours spent reading publications, analyzing data, writing papers, and designing new studies to answer new questions."

Nesbitt's most memorable experience is trekking solo across Tasmania. She now lives in Urbana, when she's not doing field research.

LaShanya Aikerson

Aurora, Kane County

LaShanya Aikerson '90 earned her BS in Engineering at Bradley University and has just completed her MBA at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. She is a mobile Consultant for IBM, based in Georgia, solving technical-related problems, with an emphasis on e-business, strategy and operations efficiency. She just finished two months' consulting for IBM at Warner Brothers Studio in Los Angeles. She says she really enjoys her work, combining engineering and management.

Previously she designed and developed performance metrics for Lucent Technologies, identifying and articulating goals and measurements for improved service results.

Aikerson says, "IMSA really did a good job in giving me a well-rounded experience, with activities like cheerleading and tennis, and the opportunity to do well in math and science and music too—to do so many diverse things with diverse people. We really got the diversity in focus with like-minded people with similar goals."



- **Thandeka Chapman** '89, from Aurora in Kane County, is pursuing her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She earned her BA in English at Spelman College and taught freshman English in the Rockford Public Schools. She also coaches girls basketball.
- **Marcie Edwards Hawkins** '89, from Chicago in Cook County, earned her JD from the Ohio State University College of Law, and her BA in finance from the University of Illinois. She is a Lawyer for CT Corporation. She gave the 1999 Convocation address at IMSA.
- **Jill Howk Gengler** '89, of Melvin in Ford County, earned a BA in the Teaching of Social Studies and an MSLS from the University of Illinois. She is an Instructional Coordinator for the LEEP3 distance learning program at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the U of I.
- **Deborah O'Fallon** '89, from Naperville in Will County, graduated from the University of Illinois with a BA degree, and is a Consultant for Princeton Economic Research in Washington, DC. She actively volunteers for several organizations, including the National Foundation for Women Legislators.
- **Dr. Diana Rios Liz** '89, from Aurora in Kane County, graduated with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Creighton University. She is a Pharmacist in Aurora.
- **Tara Rudsinski** '89, from Marengo in McHenry County, earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Illinois in 1994 and an MSW in Social Work in 1998. She is a School Social Worker for the Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education.
- **Terri Willard** '89, from Lake Zurich in Lake County, is the Internet Communications Officer at the International Development Research Centre in Winnipeg, Canada, coordinating the global Sustainable Development Network. She has a BA in Foreign Service from Georgetown University; won a Rhodes Scholarship and earned an MS in Forestry from Oxford University.
- **Rachel Berg Bithell** '90, from Rochester in Sangamon County, earned her BS in Physics from Brigham Young University and MS in Physics from the University of Michigan. She worked at IMSA as a Resident Counselor for two years, and then as a Physics Faculty member.
- **Michele Funk** '90, from Auburn in Sangamon County, earned a BA in Psychology from Reed College and is working toward a MSPH in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina. She is a Research Assistant in Pharmacoepidemiology for Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.

Yvonne Hao

South Barrington, Cook County



Yvonne Hao '91 is an Associate Consultant for McKinsey and Company in Chicago, currently in Washington, DC working on a one-year pro bono global initiative, Vital Voices. Vital Voices implements US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's commitment to promote the advancement of women in developing countries as a US foreign policy objective. This initiative enjoys the active support of first Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Hao earned her BA in Economics and Asian Studies and graduated Summa Cum Laude with Honors from Williams College, winning the Williams Award for Community Service, and an award for her dissertation at Williams on how developing countries can integrate technology into development. Hao won the Smith Fellowship to study in England. She earned her MS and a First in Economics from Cambridge University.

In Chicago, Hao volunteered for the Public Allies program to develop less privileged neighborhoods, and was chosen for the Aspen Institute Emerging Leaders program.

Tuwanda Williamson, M.D.

Bolingbrook, Will County



Dr. Tuwanda Williamson '91 is finishing her internship at the Ventura County Medical Center, working toward a Residency in Family Practice. She graduated from the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1999, and won the Ralph M. Gibson Award for Academic Achievement. She did research on tuberculosis in South Africa.

On entering Hope College, she was awarded the Biomedical Scholarship, leading to studies at the University of Michigan. As part of her scholarship, she traveled and did research during summers in Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. Williamson graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Hope College, with a triple major, in Chemistry, Biology, and Spanish, and won the Patterson Memorial Prize in Biology.

Williamson wants to use her Spanish language proficiency in her medical career.

Christy Worrell

Somonauk, DeKalb County



Christy Worrell '92 is a Design Engineer at Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria. She works for the Track-type Tractor Division, designing structures for tractors. She sets up some of the field tests, determines the kind of tests the test engineers should do, and locates strain gauges so they can measure to check the tractors' durability.

Worrell earned a BS and an MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla. Her thesis topic was "The Seismic Behavior of Architectural Glass." She did part of the research by going to Japan, in the National Science Foundation Summer Institute Program. Also, during college she tutored at Rolla High School.

Worrell believes she owes her success at engineering school to her IMSA education: "Making it through IMSA gave me the self-confidence to know I could make it through engineering school. Freshman year at engineering school women must prove they really do belong there and are capable of doing the work. Had I not gone to IMSA, I'm not sure I would have had the self-confidence to prove myself my freshman year."

Laura Nickerson

Aurora, Kane County

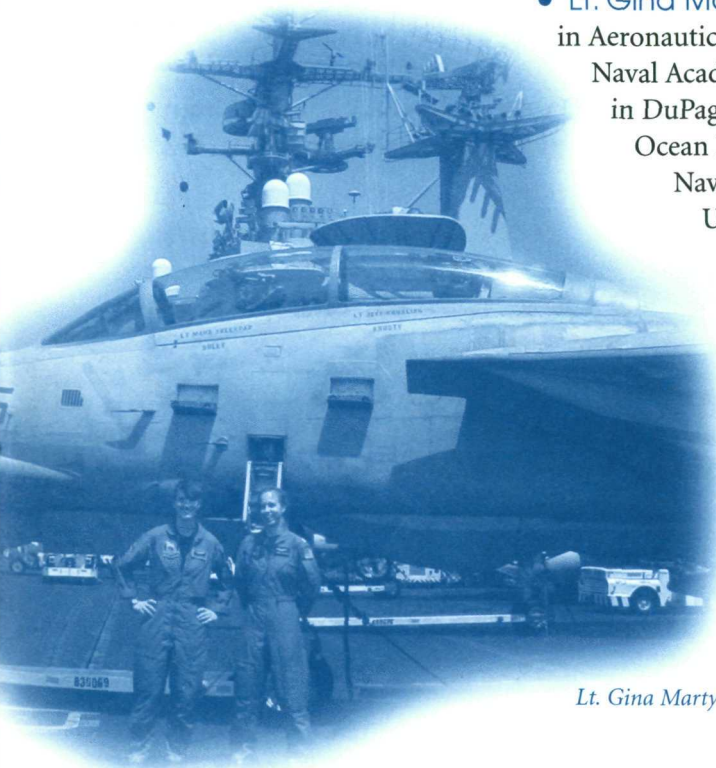
Laura Nickerson '92 teaches Physics and Chemistry at Crystal Lake Central High School in Crystal Lake. She will join IMSA's faculty in 2000-2001. She completed an MS in Acoustics at Northern Illinois University, with a thesis on the physics of musical instruments, emphasizing sound production in musical acoustics, specifically the Karen (Burmese ethnic group) bronze drum. Nickerson used holographic interferometry and an FFT analyzer. Her BS, earned at Valparaiso University, was in Physics.

She spent three summers doing high energy physics research at Los Alamos and one summer doing astronomical research, which included an observing trip to Victoria, BC. She presented a paper at the Acoustics Society of America on "Modal Analysis of Violins and Cellos."

Nickerson earned a teaching certificate at NIU. Her student teaching semester was at Wheaton Warrenville South High School, as the only teacher in the classroom, teaching Physics and AP Physics. Nickerson is enthusiastic about teaching and says, "I loved my IMSA experience and it prepared me well for my present life. I appreciate it even more now."



- **Katie Hashimoto** '90, from Aurora in Kane County, holds a BS in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois and is working toward a DDS from the University of Maryland.
- **Stephanie Jayne** '90, from Waukegan in Lake County, graduated from the University of North Carolina with a BA in Sociology in 1995. She served four years in Malawi as a Peace Corps volunteer. She now works in community development in Berkeley, CA.
- **Robin Kwong** '90, from Naperville in DuPage County, is an Engineer at Lucent Technologies. She earned a BA in Physics from the University of Chicago and an MS in Atmospheric Science, with a dissertation on "Hubble Images of Io in the Far Ultraviolet."
- **Tanya Leinicke** '90, from Springfield in Sangamon County, has a BS in Biochemistry from Michigan State University and an MD from Johns Hopkins Medical School. She is a Physician in Emergency Medicine at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.
- **Lt. Gina Martyn** '90, from Chicago Ridge in Cook County, earned a BS in Aeronautical Engineering and a commission as Ensign from the US Naval Academy. • **Classmate Lt. Beth Malecha** '90, from Addison in DuPage County, also attended the USNA and earned her BS in Ocean Engineering and her commission as Ensign. Both entered Naval Aviation. Currently they fly jets off the aircraft carrier USS Stennis, Martyn as navigator and Malecha as pilot.
- **Tanisha Mims** '90, from Cahokia in St. Clair County, graduated in International Relations from Knox College in 1994. She works at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis in Development and Alumni Relations.



Lt. Gina Martyn & Lt. Beth Malecha

- Jennifer Westerfield Cash '90, from Aurora in Kane County, earned her BS in Physics at the University of Wyoming and is working on her PhD in Astrophysics. She has published and presented papers in the field.
- Sue Wu Marr '90, of Batavia in Kane County, holds a BA in Biological Sciences from Northwestern University and an MS in Health Systems Management from Rush University. She is a Senior Consultant in Healthcare for Arthur Anderson LLP in Geneva.
- Dr. Rand Diab '91, of Rock Island in Rock Island County, graduated with a BS in Human Communication from Northwestern University and an MD from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and now is doing her medical residency.
- Lynn Roth Ginter '91, of Armington in Tazewell County, earned a BS in Engineering from Bradley University and an MS from the University of Washington. She is an Engineer for Boeing in Seattle.

Monica Jain

Schaumburg, Cook County



Monica Jain '93 is earning her BA degree in South Asian Civilization and Languages at the University of Chicago. She also works for the University doing graphic design of web pages and providing technical support. She took two years off to work at the Art Institute of Chicago in technical support and human resources.

Jain credits IMSA English teachers with preparing her well for college. The way “they taught us to critically examine a work was very valuable.” She became familiar with the University of Chicago through her IMSA Mentorship in Anatomy with Professor Michael Labarbra.

Jain has volunteered with Apna Ghar, a shelter for South Asian Women, and on campus as coordinator for the Sexual Violence Prevention Resource Center, and with Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program. “Definitely my community service grew from my community service requirement at

IMSA. It really opened my eyes to all the opportunities out there. Community service makes you feel good, as well as the other people.”

Rachel Kopay

New Lenox, Will County



Rachel Kopay '94 is studying as a Fulbright Fellow research student at Tohoku Fukushi University, in Sendai, Japan. She is interested in development for sustainability, comparing natural farming and conventional agriculture, as small-scale farming is still very important around the world.

Kopay graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS degree in Food Industry and Business in 1999. Her interest in nutrition and development was sparked as an intern in Curitiba, Brazil in 1996, integrating soy protein into children's diets.

The U of I Alumni Association named Kopay as one of its “Senior 100” outstanding graduating seniors. Four years of goaltending for the women's ice hockey team helped earn her three Brundage Scholarships for excellence in academics and athletics. Kopay was featured as one of Glamour Magazine's Top Ten College Women in October 1998.

“IMSA gave me a place where I could develop my interests, set me up to be able to come into any environment and look for the tools I need, and gave us the courage to become free thinkers. We have to work toward something better—that is why so many graduate from IMSA and go into public service.” Her IMSA Mentorship was in Plant Genetics at Cargill Hybrid Seeds.

Jocelyn Logan

Marion, Williamson County

Jocelyn Logan '94 began medical school at Northwestern University this fall. She graduated from Earlham College in 1998 with a BA in Biology. When Mother Teresa died, Logan sparked a celebration of her life on the Earlham campus, and asked who would carry on the work. Logan then worked in India with the Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, founded by Mother Teresa. Calcutta "put things in perspective as to who you really are and what you should be doing," Logan said. She also volunteered at mission hospitals in several African countries, even delivering a baby when there was no one else there to do it.

Besides aiding the sick in Calcutta, Logan has raised money for a mission school and wells in Malawi, and raised funds for and built a home in Mexico.

Logan would love one day to set up her own hospital in Africa, in a remote areas with heavy populations but no transportation and no medical care.

Mia K. Markey

Dallas City, Hancock County

Mia Markey '94 is a graduate student in Biomedical Engineering, working in the Digital Imaging Research Division in the Radiology Department of the Duke University Medical Center. Her research interest is computer aided diagnosis of breast cancer. Her BS from Carnegie Mellon University in 1998 is in the Biological Sciences/Computer Sciences track, with a minor in Ethics.

She graduated with College Honors and the Senior Leadership Award.

"My grandmother had a grade school education. My mother is a high school graduate. I am in graduate school working towards a PhD in biomedical engineering. To a large extent I owe my step in this educational progression to my IMSA experience. Attending IMSA challenged me academically and socially, prepared me for more than formal degrees, and challenged me to create and to be responsible for my creations. My career in medical research will demand such ingenuity and integrity. IMSA fostered a sense of community by giving me much and encouraging me to give much back. I feel that attending IMSA was one of the most overwhelmingly positive experiences of my life to date."

Markey grew up on a farm near Dallas City, and is married to Eric Stuckey '94, from Montrose in Cumberland County.



"We should take the understanding of people and life that we have developed and use it actively to make a difference in ourselves and the community. We should take the compassion we have exchanged and use it to have compassion for those who need it most."

*Jocelyn Logan
Graduation Speech 1994*



Mia K. Markey

Lynn Sosa

Chicago, Cook County



Lynn Sosa '94 is in Medical School at Harvard University with classmate Rebecca Reichert, of Crystal Lake. Sosa graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Loyola University, with a BS in Biology, and was chosen as the Student Speaker at Loyola's Commencement of 1998.

In college, Sosa enjoyed exploring her scientific interests through research. She recently finished a project in the GI Cell Biology Laboratory at Children's Hospital in Boston. Her work focused on elucidating the characteristics of a specialized cell in the small intestine of the mouse, which is thought to be important for the uptake of pathogens including viruses and bacteria. Her research may contribute to targeting of vaccines to the gastrointestinal tract in the future.

Sosa has a special interest in volunteering and especially in hospitals. At Harvard, Sosa helped plan and significantly expand a community service orientation project for first year medical students, aimed at raising awareness of the neighborhoods surrounding the medical area. Sosa's goal is a medical career in infectious disease, inspired in part by Dr. Ed Goebel's Pathogenic Microbiology class at IMSA.

Lt. Sarah Pierce

Moline, Rock Island County



Lt. Sarah Pierce '94 graduated from the University of Illinois in 1998 with a BSBA in Business Administration. She is an Army First Lieutenant in Advanced Rotary-Wing (helicopter) flight training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, flying Apache helicopters.

"IMSA gave me the ability to think and solve problems, and although I acquired a great deal of knowledge at IMSA, the thing I learned most about was me. I learned that it wasn't enough to be smart, but that one also needs to be

challenged in all of the facets of life.

"When I went to college, I wanted to be stretched in new ways and find my challenges outside a classroom or laboratory. The problem-solving and analytical thinking skills that I learned at IMSA blended well with the leadership and military skills I was learning in Army ROTC. I chose Army Aviation because of the unique challenges of flying. Being a pilot requires more knowledge, skill, and dedication than I ever anticipated, but guiding a 10-ton aircraft between the treetops is more exhilarating than anything I have done."



Lt. Sarah Pierce

- **Amy Blau '92**, from DeKalb in DeKalb County, graduated from Haverford College in 1996 with a BA in Literature. She is a graduate student at the University of Illinois in Comparative Literature and volunteers as a reader for Illinois Radio Reader, a service for the visually-impaired.
- **Yang Chu '92**, from Chicago in Cook County, is a Senior Engineer at 3Com Corporation in Santa Clara, CA. She graduated with a combined BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1996.
- **Elizabeth Chilton Krasovec '92**, from Joliet in Will County, earned a BA in English from Carleton College. She is now a management consultant for high-level problem-solving for Bricker and Associates in Chicago.

- **Erin Lott** '92, from Galesburg in Knox County, is an English instructor at the Colorado Academy. She has a BA in English from Denison University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Utah.
- **Cynthia Morales** '92, from St. Charles in Kane County, won a Merit Scholarship at Tulane University's Law School and expects to graduate in 2000 with a JD. She earned a BS in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois.
- **Nora Chen** '93, from Morton Grove in Cook County, earned a BS from MIT in Chemical Engineering and is working for IBM Microelectronics in New York as a Process Engineer.
- **Peggy Kim** '94, from Inverness in Cook County, graduated with a BA in History from Brown University. She teaches science at Buffalo Grove High School.
- **Elizabeth Pine** '93, from Chicago, earned a BA from Harvard & Radcliffe and is working toward a PhD in Ecology at the University of California at Berkeley, where she is a graduate student researcher. While at IMSA, she became the eighth female nationally to win the Westinghouse Science Talent Search with her project "A Mushrooming Expose," using DNA sequencing technology.
- **Stephanie Liang** '94, of Lake Forest in Lake County, attends Law School at the University of Chicago. She majored in International Economics at Georgetown University for her BS in Foreign Service, and worked in banking and finance with Fuji Capital Markets Corporation in New York City.
- **Christina Schweitzer** '94, from Malta in DeKalb County, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1998 with a BA in Secondary Education—English and Spanish, and is now working at IMSA as a Resident Counselor.
- **Michele Casey** '95, from Wheaton in DuPage County, graduated from Harvard in June '99, magna cum laude. She majored in English and Women's Studies. She is spending a year with Americorps Vista, in Urbana, with Land of Lincoln Legal Services, providing economic and legal assistance to the disadvantaged.
- **Heena Desai** '95, from Wilmette in Cook County, earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and is pursuing her MD at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Mila Verdugo

Chicago, Cook County

Mila Verdugo '95 graduated from Cornell University in 1999 with a BS in Biology. She is working this year and applying for clinical research positions for one year programs. In 2001, she has a Rotary Scholarship to study in Australia at the University of Sydney, to pursue a Master's in Public Health. Verdugo is now an Executive Assistant to CEO Philip Jackson of the Chicago Housing Authority.

When primate researcher Jane Goodall visited Cornell, Verdugo discussed research with her and found her very humble and easy-going. Inspired by Goodall, in the summer of 1998 Verdugo did saki monkey research in the Venezuelan jungle, sponsored by the National Institute of Health. She found that certain fruits the monkeys choose to eat are anti-microbial and anti-fungal. Verdugo walked all day, following the troupe, wearing the same clothing and following the same paths to gain the monkeys' confidence, and gathering samples. As much research as possible was done in the forest. Further tests were done at the Universidad de Venezuela and Cornell.

Verdugo says, "IMSA taught me independent thinking. My math and my science were excellent," leading to success at Cornell. She has traveled extensively in Europe.



Sindhu Revuluri

Palatine, Cook County

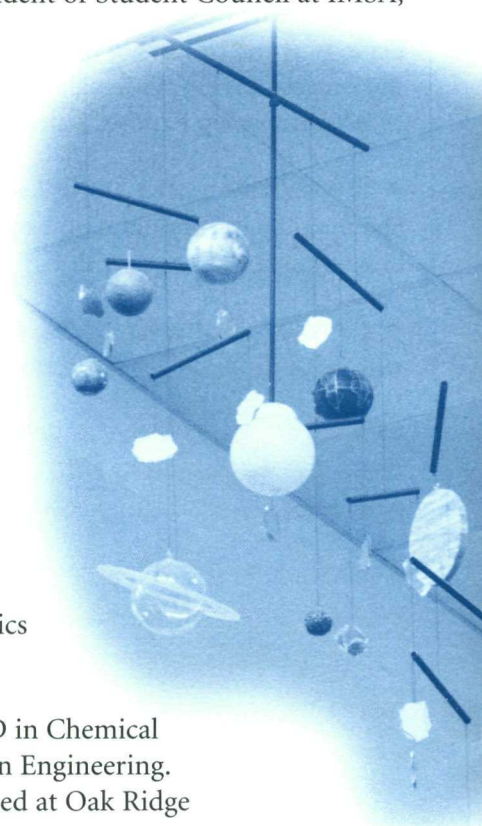


Sindhu Revuluri '96 majors in Musicology at Smith College. She is a Student Fellow in the Kahn Institute at Smith, which focuses on interdisciplinary problems. This year's theme, "Star Messenger: Galileo at the Millennium," looks at connections between Renaissance music and the 20th century.

Revuluri says her IMSA training shows in her musicology work—specifically the motivation for independent thought within a field and for scientific-style research in a humanities field. She will write her undergraduate thesis on Gabriel Faure's piano works. Two summers ago, Revuluri spent ten weeks doing data-gathering research in rural Ghana on native drumming styles.

Still involved in student government at Smith, Revuluri was President of Student Council at IMSA, in IMSA's tradition of fostering leadership skills.

- **Sara Fisher '95**, from Algonquin in McHenry County, earned a BA in Physics and Studio Art from Stanford University, and is a product designer for Sonicbox, Inc., in Mountain View, CA. Sara created the Universe Mobile (pictured right) which hangs at the east end of the old cafeteria.
- **Morgan Hawker '95**, from Charleston in Coles County, holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and is a Mechanical Design Engineer for UOP LLP in Des Plaines.
- **Melanie Kotys '95**, from Troy in Madison County, earned a BE in Biomedical Engineering/Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and is working toward a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Washington University.
- **Megan Mandernach '95**, of Decatur in Macon County, earned a BA in Geology from the College of Wooster, and is working toward an MS in Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin.
- **Dorothy Pleas '95**, from LaGrange Park in Cook County, is pursuing a PhD in Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University, with a GEM fellowship for Minorities in Engineering. She earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Vanderbilt University and interned at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- **Ens. Pamela Rawe '95**, from Jerseyville in Jersey County, completed her MS in Mechanical Engineering from John Hopkins University in December 1999, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a commission as Ensign from the US Naval Academy. She has been accepted into the Navy's Nuclear Power Program.
- **Amy Timm '95**, from Marion in Williamson County, earned a BS in Elementary Education from Valparaiso University, and teaches Bilingual Second Grade in the U46 School District in Elgin.
- **Rebecca Willett '96**, from Plainfield in Will County, is a senior attending Duke University, with a double major in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. President of the local chapters of both the Society of Women Engineers and Habitat for Humanity, she recently was featured in the Duke University Dialogue.



I wish I could still draw...

When I was in grammar school I used to draw pretty decently. I love to draw in pencil and chalk. Art of all kinds intrigues me, but I also love music and painting, and carpentry and metal working, and dancing, and sewing and embroidery, and cooking.

I want to dance in my old ballet class, play my clarinet, draw thousands of pictures, really good ones, create beautiful poems and pieces of woodwork, cook and sew for my children, decorate my home, have a good marriage, be an active volunteer, go to church, be an astrophysicist, go to Mars, and understand my questions about life. That's not too much to ask, is it?

—excerpt from a thinking log
by an IMSA female student



Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 West Sullivan Road
Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000
630-907-5000
www.imsa.edu