

COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLASS OF 2015

Illinois Mathematics and
Science Academy®

Saturday, May 30, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Paramount Theatre
Aurora, Illinois



PROGRAM

Prelude **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**
IMSA Graduation Choir

Selections performed by the IMSA Graduation Choir **Emily Sites**
Conductor

Selections performed by the IMSA Graduation Band **Mary Beth McCarthy**
Conductor

Processional **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**
IMSA Graduation Band

Pomp & Circumstance from Military Marches op.39, no.1 **Edward Elgar**

(Please rise as the graduates enter and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.)

Pledge of Allegiance **Vinesh Kannan**
President, Student Council

Welcome – Reflections on This Day **Priya Trivedi**
Treasurer, Student Council

Reflections on IMSA **Vinesh Kannan**
President, Student Council

Introduction of Commencement Speaker **Sheila MB Griffin**
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Commencement Address **Jamie N. Jones Ph.D.**
Innovation Advisor at RTI International and Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation,
Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University

Presentation of the Class of 2015 **Branson D. Lawrence, Jr.**
Principal

Acceptance of the Class of 2015 **José M. Torres, Ph.D.**
President

Presentation of Diplomas and Medallions **Sheila MB Griffin**
José M. Torres

Presentation of Candidates **Timothy Gietl**
President, Class of 2015

Ashley Kim
Member, Class of 2015

Recessional **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**
IMSA Graduation Band

Graduation Marshals Members, Class of 2016

Andrew Adams
Harith Alappat
Hannah Chaddha
Tiffany Ding

Heidi Dong
Vedhik Kodavatiganti
Arthur Ortiz
Cristal Quinones

(Please remain in the Theatre until all graduates and staff have exited.)

Max Tucker Ackerman
Arlington Heights

Timothy Oluwatobi Akintilo
Bourbonnais

Nicole Marie Aldridge
Bloomington

Waleed Ali
Peoria

Tahj Amir Alli-Balogun
Frankfort

Vikram Sriram Anjur
Aurora

Samantha A. Arrez
Chicago

Daniel John Atten
West Dundee

Eric Salvador Barrientos
Berwyn

Brendan Joseph Batliner
Crystal Lake

Hannah Marie Beers
Hillsboro

Vimal Sai Bellamkonda
Peoria

Anna Francesca Borromeo
West Chicago

Marissa Catherine Brock
La Grange

Jacob Lee Brown
Sugar Grove

Remy Hunan Bubulka
Naperville

Kristen Iman Byrd
Olympia Fields

Austin Cao
Naperville

Kristin N. Carlson
Elgin

Edward James Carson
Oak Brook

Ryan James Chandler
Plainfield

Diana Karen Chen
Darien

Kyle B. Chen
Lisle

Xindi Chen
Lake Forest

Samuel K. Cheung
Champaign

Greeshma Chilukuri
Plainfield

Mary Christa Cody
Sycamore

Daniel Price Collins
Bushnell

Ana Maria Curtis
Macomb

Amy Bibiana De La Torre
Carpentersville

Mason Allen Dearborn
Yorkville

Jennifer S. Du
Carbondale

Grace Y. Duan
Naperville

Alyssa Chantawn Evans
Chicago Heights

Nisa Faheem
Huntley

Molly Kaye Fane
Dixon

Yan Lin Feng
Bloomington

Marissa Ann Foster-Borchering
West Chicago

Ryan Elliot Franks
Highland Park

Natasha Danielle Freund
Shabbona

Geronimo Estrada Garcia III
Forsyth

Rebecca Grace Geiger
Aurora

Timothy John George Gietl
Batavia

Cammille C. Go
Naperville

Daniel J. Gonzalez
Plainfield

Yasmine Lynn Gordon
Oswego

Lohitha Guntupalli
Springfield

Alexandra M. Guzman
Montgomery

Omar Andrew Hafiz
Barrington

Jade Andrea Halverson
Loves Park

Karin Yang Han
Chatham

Kayla Anne Hannon
Belleville

Rhea Harsoor
Oak Brook

Eric Stephen Hennenfent
Homer Glen

Lija Marie Kulys Hoffman
Inverness

Leehwa Evania Hong
Des Plaines

Michael Joseph Hrcek
Yorkville

Fengling Hu
Burr Ridge

Jack Huang
Chicago

Alyda Huerta
North Aurora

Raven P. Jackson
Richton Park

Arjit Jaiswal
Aurora

Vivian Jin
Naperville

Alexandra Lea Johnson
Homer Glen

Sharon Marilyn Johnson
Des Plaines

Edward Jisuk Jun
Warrenville

Vinesh Girish Kannan
Schaumburg

Andrew Charles Kazenas
Itasca

Abrar M. Khaja
Lincolnwood

Omair Mohammed Khan
Libertyville

Nicholas James Kiene
Poplar Grove

Ashley Eunjee Kim
Roselle

Nisha Madhuri Kishore
Peoria

Max Kontorovich
Buffalo Grove

Sanjay Venkata Kottapalli
Clarendon Hills

Kathryn Jane Kuna
Naperville

Sophia ShinSee Lam
Chicago

Braden Miles Lauder
Lanark

Claire Songhyun Lee
Champaign

Ka Wai Lee
Rolling Meadows

Laura Daniela Lehmann
Montgomery

Dayna K. Lei
Romeoville

Maximilian Rey Lembo
Wauconda

Jaida Nichole Lewis
Matteson

Quinn Tat Szeto Lewis
Glen Ellyn

Patty Kit Li
Des Plaines

Eveline Shenyi Liu
Naperville

Vivian Wei Liu
Charleston

Harishankar Logaraj
Aurora

Sarai Rebeca Lopez
Chicago

Hsing-Duan Louh
Roscoe

Malachi Reed Loviska
Troy

Derek Ryan Lubecke
Yorkville

Danielle Leilani Madsen
Downers Grove

Nicholas Alexander Magerko
Lake in the Hills

Robert Jacob Magyar
Elk Grove Village

Rohit Mahankali
Plainfield

Fernando Maldonado
Chicago

Sameeksha H. Malhotra
Naperville

Alec Sample Mangan
Freeport

Alonzo Thomas Marsh
Woodridge

Monica Shelly Mastrud
Batavia

Megan E. McKeown
Island Lake

Michelle-Ann Catañag Meas
Oswego

Puja Mittal
Peoria

Matthew J. Moranz
St. Anne

Alexander Paul Moreno
Bartlett

Timothy W. Morris
Naperville

Emily Mu
Naperville

Luke Robert Musgrave
Bourbonnais

August Henry Nagro
Gurnee

Seungwoo Nam
Savoy

Saraswathi Nookala
Peoria

Nida Normantaite
Orland Park

Evan Patrick O'Brien
Elmhurst

Julian Victor Pacheco
Aurora

Somie Park
Springfield

Haneesha Paruchuri
Bolingbrook

Dawson Dusiyantkumar Patel
Plainfield

Mit Mahendra Patel
Schaumburg

Shuchi Patel
Orland Park

Rajiv Timothy Patel-O'Connor
Peoria

Daniel Benjamin Pechi
Wheaton

Breanna Dee Pederson
Batavia

Jonathan Daniel Peloquin
Sycamore

Evelyn Perez
Cicero

Luselena Aime Perez Laureano
Lemont

Molly Grace Pfeiffer
Glendale Heights

Matthew Alexander Pomella
Elgin

Sean Francis Potempa
Evergreen Park

Archit Vishnu Potharazu
West Dundee

Kody Allen Puebla
Moline

Ahsan Ahmed Qureshi
Crystal Lake

Emily Hayes Rader
Clare

Aishwarya Raj
Aurora

Sattvic Ray
Naperville

Maureen Catherine Reiser
Petersburg

Jonathan Douglas Reynolds
Moline

Dennis Theodore Rich
Bloomington

Megan Rose Roller
Algonquin

Aquila Ryu
Palatine

Tariq James Sachleben
Oak Park

Andrew Herbst Salij
Riverside

Rodrigo Alfonso Sanchez
Lansing

Nicole Lynn Schubert
Oak Park

Britney Renee Scott
Sycamore

Bhairvi Shah
Watseka

Milan R. Shah
Orland Park

Aniruddha Shekara
Bloomington

Christopher Junsik Shin
Naperville

Nikko Dean Sideris
Union

Bailey Ocean Simmons-Brown
Chicago

Sachi Ajay Singh
Plainfield

Janani Nirmala Sivakumar
Tower Lakes

Emma Neiberg Sloan
River Forest

Katie Emily Slowikowski
Plainfield

Dayvon Juan Snell
Matteson

Tera Elizabeth Sparks
O'Fallon

Remmie Aileen Spinks
Oak Forest

Simona Stancov
Lansing

Lajvanthi Sudhakar
Bolingbrook

Ranjani Lakshmi Sundar
Naperville

Nathan William Sutphen
Lanark

Adit Suvarna
St. Charles

Shelly S. Teng
Clarendon Hills

Yash A. Thacker
Normal

Shveta Thakkar
Mundelein

Sneha Thakkar
Mundelein

Rashmi Thimmapuram
Westmont

Kyle Anthony Thomas
Aurora

Katrina Helen Toman
Antioch

Rajiv Sanjay Trehan
Hoffman Estates

Priya Trivedi
Naperville

Jayathi Renuka Varadheeswaran
Naperville

Vivek Vermani
Buffalo Grove

Aaron Lewis Victor
Seneca

Brian Vien
Round Lake

Amanda Kaplowitz Walsh
LaGrange

Paul Yi Chuan Wang
Peoria Heights

Wenhan Wang
Lisle

Ziang Wang
Peoria

William Widjaja
Aurora

Grant T. Williams
Matteson

Bria Safé Williamson
Olympia Fields

Irina A. Wirjan
North Aurora

Thomas Yue Wu
Roscoe

Yiqiao Wu
Naperville

Zachary Joel Yager
Crystal Lake

Alan Saint Yang
Darien

Ryan Ran Yang
Hanover Park

Mayuri Anri Yasuda
Batavia

Sung W. Yeo
Wheeling

Guna Yerrabolu
Bloomington

Marla Zepeda
Roselle

Timothy Yu Zhou
Bolingbrook

Special thanks to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education for underwriting the use of the Paramount Theatre for Commencement.

The need to understand how the universe works is fundamental to human nature. It is also essential for safely managing the human future; but foolishly, we have designed a society based on science and technology in which hardly anyone understands science and technology. This is a clear prescription for disaster.

Our future depends on producing and encouraging highly competent, ethically responsible young scientists, as well as a much greater scientific literacy in the general public.

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois, is dedicated to meeting this challenge... It is a gift from the people of Illinois to the human future.

Dr. Carl Sagan, 1934-1996

IMSA CLASS OF 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

The many accomplishments of the Class of 2015 are too vast for listing individually. The following snapshot of this past year (as of May 13, 2015) captures many of our seniors' remarkable achievements. Other well-deserving students were awarded honors and recognitions from a wide array of local, state and national organizations in the arts, humanities, athletics, mathematics and science.

AP International Diploma: Waleed Ali

National Advanced Placement Scholars: Waleed Ali, Camille Go, Jack Huang, Ka Wai Lee, Archit Potharazu, Sattvic Ray, Emma Sloan, Timothy Zhou

Advanced Placement Scholars With Distinction: Waleed Ali, Vikram Anjur, Vimal Bellamkonda, Remy Bubulka, Jennifer Du, Grace Duan, Camille Go, Fengling Hu, Jack Huang, Sanjay Kottapalli, Ka Wai Lee, Eveline Liu, Harishankar Logaraj, Alonzo Marsh, Emily Mu, Rajiv Patel-O'Connor, Archit Potharazu, Sattvic Ray, Emma Sloan, Shveta Thakkar, Sneha Thakkar, Kyle Thomas, Alan Yang, Timothy Zhou

Advanced Placement Scholars With Honors: Xindi Chen, Vivian Jin, Edward Jun, Max Kontorovich, Patty Li, Ahsan Qureshi, Dennis Rich, Milan Shah, Ranjani Sundar, Shelly Teng, Priya Trivedi, Wenhan Wang

National Achievement Finalists: Max Ackerman, Timothy Akintilo, Tahj Alli-Balogun, Yasmine Gordon, Quinn Lewis, Dayvon Snell, Kyle Thomas

National Merit Finalists: 41 seniors

U.S. Presidential Scholars Competition Semifinalist: Emily Mu

American Invitational Mathematics Examination: Jennifer Du, Max Kontorovich, Ka Wai Lee, Rohit Mahankali, Alexander Moreno, Emily Mu, Timothy Zhou

Mathematics Team: 4th in State - Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contest:
Vikram Anjur, Andrew Kazenas, Ka Wai Lee, Emily Mu

Moody's Mega Math Challenge 2015: Honorable Mention – Jennifer Du, Ka Wai Lee, Emily Mu, Shelly Teng

U.S. Mathematics Olympiad Qualifier: Emily Mu

American Computer Science League Finalists: Austin Cao, Ka Wai Lee

High School Cyber Forensics Challenge Finalists: Brendan Batliner, Eric Hennenfent, Nicholas Magerko, August Nagro, Jonathan Reynolds

American Academy of Science Outstanding Achievement at the National Level in Scientific Research & Leadership: Grace Duan, Omair Khan, Sanjay Kottapalli, Sameeksha Malhotra, Ranjani Sundar

Illinois Junior Academy of Science Gold Medal Winners: Aishwarya Raj, Rashmi Thimmapuram

Scholastic Bowl Team: 4th in State – 1st Masonic State Championship, Waleed Ali, Dan Pechi, Andrew Salij

Science Olympiad Team Member: 2nd in State, Astronomy – Alan Yang

Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Regional Finalist: Janani Sivakumar

Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Semifinalists: Emily Mu, Bhairvi Shah, Janani Sivakumar, Shelly Teng

National History Bee Semifinalist: Andrew Salij

National Security Language Initiative Youth Scholarships for Russian: Natasha Freund, Emma Sloan

National YoungArts Foundation 2015 Winner: Timothy Zhou - Instrumental music/piano

Illinois Future Business Leaders of America National Qualifiers: Waleed Ali, Jennifer Du, Abrar Khaja, Emily Mu, Dawson Patel, Shveta Thakkar, Sneha Thakkar, Priya Trivedi, Guna Yerrabolu

Illinois Future Problem Solving Competition: 2nd Place Orals Competition, Greeshma Chilukuri
5th Place Written Competition, Leehwa Hong, Vivian Jin, Haneesha Paruchuri

Illinois High School Association: 5th in State, Vinesh Kannan – Impromptu Speaking

Illinois High School Association State Solo Ensemble Contest: 1st Place, Piano Performance – Daniel Collins

Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Competition: All State Choir – Luke Musgrave, Dennis Rich
All State Composition – Daniel Collins; All State Orchestra, Janani Sivakumar

John H. McEachern, Jr. Exemplary Service Travel Scholarship Recipients: Raven Jackson, Katie Slowikowski

Knight Family IMSA Scholarship Winner: Ka Wai Lee

The Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program Winner: Vikram Anjur

National German Exam Winners: Eric Barrientos, Marissa Brock, Daniel Collins, Sattvic Ray, Yiqiao Wu, Guna Yerrabolu

National Lauréat French Winners: Daniel Pechi, Katie Slowikowski, Ziang Wang

National Russian Essay Contest Winners: Gold - Timothy Akintilo, Molly Fane, Natasha Freund, Nicholas Kiene, Braden Lauder, Vivian Liu, Nicholas Magerko, Rohit Mahankali, Matthew Moranz, Julian Pacheco, Daniel Pechi, Nathan Sutphen; Silver - Yasmine Gordon, Lohitha Guntupalli, Omar Hafiz, Derek Lubecke, Emma Sloan, Rajiv Trehan

National Spanish Exam Winner: Omair Khan

The World Has Taken Notice of IMSA's Achievements

This year, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) continued to demonstrate leadership in STEM teaching, learning and talent development throughout Illinois and around the world. This graduating class and all of our students also distinguished themselves in true IMSA fashion.

An IMSA Sophomore was one of only 15 Global Finalists selected from the thousands of entrants to the 2014 Google Science Fair. Seven IMSA seniors have qualified as semifinalists in the 2015 National Achievement® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for African-American high school students. Two IMSA students were Illinois' Regional Finalists in the 2014 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology.

An IMSA Sophomore placed third in the Guts round of the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament, along with teammates from the University of Chicago Lab School. The American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) named an IMSA Junior an ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate for 2014, an honor given to the 30 most outstanding Russian students of 2014. Five IMSA students had their original research recognized at the 2015 American Academy of Science (AAS) Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA, earning prestigious honors for their impressive work.

IMSA named its new innovation center the IN2 Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry. The 6400 square foot, open space design lab, partly modeled after the digital co-op 1871 in Chicago, is slated to be completed by spring of 2016.

In the workforce, IMSA alumni use their scientific minds to creatively solve global issues and advance the human condition. They are doctors leading breakthroughs in neurological disorders and cancer treatments. They are scientists at national laboratories. They are leaders in education at Harvard, MIT, the University of Illinois and other prestigious universities. They are technology experts at Facebook, Google, and Microsoft. They are business leaders and engineers at Boeing Company, Motorola, the New York Stock Exchange, Nissan, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Shell Oil. They are entrepreneurs and co-founders of Netscape, PayPal, Yelp, and YouTube.

In 2014-15, Professional Field Services (PFS) has continued to build programming and community capacity through face-to-face and online learning opportunities for students and teachers across Illinois. This year PFS expanded the IMSA Allies program to two Chicago locations. This STEM-focused leadership program allows high schools students, both at IMSA and at partner locations, to develop leadership and STEM skills as they provide STEM learning opportunities for younger students. In addition, PFS expanded IMSA Fusion to reach 3500 students at 135 partner schools across Illinois.

This year, the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, due to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, corporate and foundation partners, has reached an all-time giving record of \$3 million in gifts and pledges. Grateful alumni and parents are showing their support through annual donations and "giving back" to IMSA at record levels. The IMSA Fund board of directors also launched the STEM Business Network, which brings IMSA and select businesses together to elevate STEM education, talent, and opportunities throughout Illinois.

Historical Fast Facts:

- IMSA was named the winner of the prestigious Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award in 2009.
- The Wall Street Journal named IMSA among the top 40 public and private college preparatory institutions in the world for placing graduates in the U.S. Ivy League and highly selective colleges and universities.
- IMSA alumni receive numerous academic, research and leadership awards, including Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation, Rhodes, Truman and Siebel Scholarships.
- Educators visit from many countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, Mexico, Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, and South Africa.

Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good. The Class of 2015 demonstrated this commitment by completing over 58,100 hours of service learning in a variety of ways. Organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Exodus, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, ALS Association, and numerous schools, libraries, and museums have all reaped the benefits. The National Volunteer Value estimates that one volunteer hour is worth about \$23 to an organization. Therefore, the time and effort that the Class of 2015 dedicated to their communities equates to over \$1,300,000 of value in labor alone, allowing these organizations to better fulfill their goals of aiding those in need. While every IMSA student must complete a minimum of 200 hours of service learning in order to graduate, some students have gone above and beyond. Special recognition goes to the following students who have earned over 750 service learning hours: Nicole Aldridge- 760.25, Grace Duan- 804.5 hours, Karin Han- 787 hours, Alyda Huerta- 786.75 hours, Laura Lehmann - 776 hours, Haneesha Paruchuri- 899 hours, Priya Trivedi- 954 hours, and Amanda Walsh- 949 hours. Thank you for your dedication!



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