IMSA Mission

The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, a community of scholars dedicated to intellectual exploration, is to develop leaders who know the joy of discovering and forging interconnections among mathematics, science, the arts and the humanities, and who, by example and by instruction, inspire others to live in harmony with themselves, other human beings and the physical world.

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Dear Shareholders of the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education,

As president of the IMSA Fund board of directors, it is my privilege to share with you, our shareholders, a copy of the 1991-92 annual report of the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education.

This has been a record year for the IMSA Fund—an achievement all the more noteworthy in light of the recessionary economy and uncertain futures for many corporations and individuals. In a time when many people are having to make difficult choices, we are grateful you chose IMSA as a sound investment in the future.

The IMSA Fund raised nearly $1 million in 1991-92. The $963,245 total represents a 10% increase over last year's total with a 21% increase in the number of donors. I believe this growth can be attributed to several factors, including the leadership of the IMSA Fund board of directors; the impressive record of success on the part of the IMSA board of trustees, faculty, staff, students and parents; and the vision and commitment of you, our donors.

If 1991-92 was a banner year in terms of fundraising, it also was a banner year in terms of IMSA's development. Programs for other school systems, teachers and students in Illinois continued to expand; IMSA students continued to excel; and the Academy was widely acclaimed as a national leader in mathematics and science education, problem-based learning and educational change.

A recent issue of *Crain's Chicago Business* called IMSA “a favorite of corporate chieftains.” This should come as no surprise. Corporate executives love a winner, and IMSA is a winner. Despite its short history, venture capital investment in IMSA is already paying significant dividends. This return on investment will only continue to increase exponentially in the years ahead. I am honored to be associated with such an exemplary institution—one that serves as both a research and development laboratory for Illinois and the nation and as a school for talented mathematics and science students from throughout the state.

Many of IMSA’s successes, of course, are made possible by the private sector. Your “margin of excellence” investments have enabled IMSA to pilot and expand a number of innovative programs, both internal and statewide.

On behalf of the entire IMSA Fund board of directors, thank you for your outstanding commitment and generous support.

Sincerely,

James R. Thompson

*President*

*IMSA Fund Board of Directors*
"We are pleased to support the Grainger Inventors' Workshop, where the leaders of tomorrow can begin putting their ideas to work."

David Grainger
Chairman
W. W. Grainger, Inc.
Skokie
Grainger Inventors' Workshop

Visibility/Awareness Initiatives
- Informational luncheons for community leaders (Rockford, Decatur, Chicago)
- IMSA/Illinois Bell holiday greeting card
- IMSA Public Relations Council
- Selection for Miss Saigon benefit (scheduled for November 1992)
- Reception for Dr. Carl Sagan and special friends of the IMSA Fund

Private Sector Contributions
- Gifts of $963,245 (10% increase over last year's total)
- 21% increase in the number of donors
- Largest grant to date: $325,000, The Grainger Foundation

Program Support
- Gifts of $111,250 from IMSA Fund directors (100% board participation)
- Parent contributions of $41,978
- $3.6 million mark surpassed (see chart below)

Inaugural James R. Thompson Leadership Lecture: Dr. Carl Sagan
Inaugural Richard L. Horwitz Lecture on Ethics: Dr. Martin E. Marty
Wingspread Conference on Problem-Based Learning
Innovations and Initiatives projects by IMSA faculty and staff
IMPACT II teaching grants for Illinois educators

IMSA Fund Surpasses $3.6 Million
Grainger Grant Heads Record Year

IMSA Fund History
Donors Support IMSA's External and On-Campus Programs

External Programs/Outreach

Wingspread Conference/Problem-Based Learning. On May 4-6, IMSA was invited to convene a national conference on problem-based learning at the internationally renowned Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Educators from Illinois and other states attended the conference which was sponsored by the Johnson Foundation and Hitachi Foundation. In addition to Wingspread, the Center for Problem-Based Learning at IMSA provided materials and initial training for a number of educators from Illinois and other states.

IMPACT II Teaching Grants. Thanks to support from the private sector, IMSA was able to increase the number of IMPACT II grants awarded to mathematics and science teachers in Illinois. Donors included Continental Bank (Chicago), Faucher Bros. Cartage (Chicago), Bank One (Bloomington-Normal and Springfield), Central Illinois Public Service Company (Springfield), Amoco Foundation (Aurora) and Gary-Wheaton Bank (Aurora). IMPACT II promotes excellence in elementary and secondary education by enabling teachers throughout the state to share successful classroom programs.

James R. Thompson Leadership Lecture. Various teachers and students from throughout Illinois were among the 1,500 guests who attended IMSA’s inaugural James R. Thompson Leadership Lecture by Dr. Carl Sagan. The Thompson Leadership Lecture was established in 1990 following a gift to the IMSA Fund from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Videotapes of Sagan’s lecture were provided to schools throughout Illinois.

Science Exhibits. Under the direction of chemistry teacher Barbara Greenberg, IMSA students developed “hands-on” science exhibits for 120 local-area elementary students and their teachers.

Minority Recruitment/Enrichment Programs

IMSA Sloan Challenge Program. IMSA implemented the first of a three-year recruitment/enrichment program for minority students in East St. Louis and Joliet. A total of 70 seventh graders—35 in each site—attended IMSA-sponsored programs in their home communities throughout the school year, and a weeklong summer program at IMSA. The IMSA Sloan Challenge Program is supported by a major grant of $250,000 (announced the previous year), from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Chicago Challenge. IMSA continued its yearlong work with students and teachers at seven elementary schools in Chicago. Support was provided by grants from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Illinois Bell, Ford Motor Company, Northern Illinois Gas, and Waste Management, Inc.

Early Involvement Program (EIP). A total of 37 ninth graders from Chicago attended IMSA’s EIP program (Saturday morning sessions), held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and an overnight retreat at IMSA. Support was provided by the Albert Pick Jr. Fund and the Polk Brothers Foundation.

Orr High School Lighthouse Program. An enrichment program for students in the Orr High School Lighthouse Program on Chicago’s west side was taught by IMSA and Orr faculty. The program provided students from the Orr High School Network with after-school “hands-on” mathematics and science activities.

IMSA students and Dr. Carl Sagan
**Capital Projects**

**Grainger Inventors’ Workshop.** The Grainger Foundation of Skokie, Illinois, awarded IMSA a grant valued at $325,000 to build and operate an inventors’ workshop. This is the Academy’s largest private sector gift to date. The Grainger Inventors’ Workshop will be an area for students to “tinker” and build equipment needed for their research. The workshop will be used by IMSA students, faculty and staff, and other students who participate in IMSA’s external programs.

**Problem-Based Learning.** IMSA’s problem-based Science, Society and the Future course, funded by the Hitachi Foundation, was selected by The Executive Educator and The American School Board Journal as one of 25 national winners for innovative instruction. (See External Programs/Outreach.)

**Ford Model School.** For the second consecutive year, IMSA was named a “Ford Model School” by the American Council of Teachers of Russian/Ford Foundation Program for Russian in the Schools. Alexander Ptitsin, a resource teacher and curriculum development consultant from the Pyatigorsk Institute of Languages, spent the year helping the foreign language faculty further refine IMSA’s Russian language program.

**Environmental Seminar.** A special Saturday seminar, entitled “Visions for a Sustainable World,” was underwritten in part by the IMCERA Young Scientists Fund. The seminar explored issues related to the global interdependence of the planet.

“**It was amazing to talk with the students about growing up in Russia and discover that teenagers are much the same all over the world.”**

*Gena Ghearing  
IMSA Student  
Lincoln  
US-USSR High School Academic Partnership Program*

**Curriculum Projects**

**Equipment**

**Toyota Video Production Laboratory.** In 1991-92, using funds from the $150,000 Toyota USA Foundation grant announced the previous year, IMSA purchased a studio lighting system, state-of-the-art production cameras, a studio intercom system, a production switcher, a new VHS editing suite and an electronic music system.

**Cadvance Computer Programs.** Applied Computer Technology, Inc., of Aurora, donated 15 Cadvance computer programs valued at $52,500. The popular software, used by designers, architects and building engineers, will enable students to create, see and revise blueprints before constructing projects.

**ProQuest.** University Microfilms, Inc., a division of Bell & Howell Company, renewed its support of the ProQuest system which gives students instantaneous access to up-to-date articles and illustrations from 150 magazines and journals.

**Science Laboratory Equipment.** Precision Scientific, Inc., donated $15,000 worth of science laboratory equipment, including water baths and incubators, to support student research.

**Laser Printers/Student Union Furniture.** Gifts to the Parents Fund supported student life program needs, including laser printers for the residence halls and furniture for the student union.
Outdoor Recreational Playground. In early 1992, the Rachel Elizabeth Szech memorial fund was established following her untimely death in a horseback riding accident. Contributions to the fund will support the purchase of outdoor recreational equipment for IMSA students. Szech was a resident of Waukegan and member of IMSA’s Class of 1993.

Special Student Activities

Mentorship/Presentation Day. Once again, the Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation supported IMSA’s mentorship program enabling students to work on site with researchers in government, corporate and university laboratories in northern Illinois. The Foundation also supported IMSA’s annual Research Presentation Day.

National Undergraduate Research Conference. The IMCERA Young Scientists Fund supported women in science activities and student participation in the National Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Minnesota. IMSA was the only high school in the nation invited to participate in this conference.

US-USSR High School Academic Partnership Program. For the third consecutive year, IMSA students participated in the US-USSR High School Academic Partnership Program, visiting School 36 in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, and hosting a group of Russian students at IMSA.

Commencement. As in previous years, the IMSA Fund underwrote the use of Aurora’s Paramount Arts Centre for a formal commencement ceremony for IMSA seniors.

Faculty/Staff Innovations and Initiatives

In 1991-92, the IMSA Fund awarded the first innovations and initiatives mini-grants, totaling more than $8,000, to nine IMSA staff members. This fund, established in 1990, enables IMSA faculty and staff to implement creative ideas that support IMSA’s mission. The first awards were received by two secretaries, five teachers, one resident counselor and one social worker.

Permanent Endowment

Additional gifts were made in 1991-92 to permanent endowment funds established in previous years: James R. Thompson Leadership Fund, Richard L. Horwitz Memorial Fund, and Chuck Aaron Memorial Fund. These supported, respectively, the inaugural James R. Thompson Leadership Lecture by Dr. Carl Sagan; inaugural Richard L. Horwitz Lecture on Ethics by Dr. Martin Marty; and two scholarships for inner-city students to attend IMSA’s Summer ‘AD’Ventures program.

“I have learned how to speak in front of a lot of people and how to use scientific materials.”

Donald Dowell
Clark Junior High School
East St. Louis
IMSA Sloan Challenge

Toyota Video Production Laboratory
Dear Members of the Council for Educational Distinction in Illinois,

It is my privilege, as executive director of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, to thank you for your generous investment in our pioneering educational community.

The 1991-92 school year was indeed a remarkable one, and your support played a critical role in enabling the Academy to reach new heights. Your support will become even more important in the future as we move forward in implementing IMSA's visionary strategic plan.

Our strategic plan, which is designed to foster intellectual exploration, integrative thinking, leadership development, and ethical and responsible living, continues to drive our work in redefining curriculum, instruction and assessment, and in developing statewide partnerships and initiatives designed to enhance mathematics and science education for all students.

The Grainger Inventors’ Workshop and the IMSA Fund’s investment of venture capital in the newly-established national Center for Problem-Based Learning at IMSA are but two examples of how the private sector helps IMSA move forward in this regard.

We are making good progress. In 1991-92, for example, IMSA received extensive praise from a team of national experts in curriculum, instruction, assessment, organizational culture and student development as part of a unique approach to accreditation approved for IMSA by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. In evaluating the impact of IMSA’s strategic plan, the North Central Accreditation Report concluded:

*Real changes in education come from need and leadership. America has lots of the former and little of the latter....Occasionally there is an opportunity to build an exemplar, one that is so powerful that it shows clearly what can be done by showing what is being done. IMSA is becoming that exemplar. When it is fully realized, it will be a blueprint for how to reconstruct education.*

You, our donors, provide the “margin of excellence” resources for IMSA to become that blueprint. On behalf of the board of trustees, faculty and staff, students, parents and alumni of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pace Marshall, Ph.D.
*Executive Director*
Recognizing individuals, corporations and foundations that provided financial support to the Academy during the period July 1, 1991 thru June 30, 1992.

**$25,000 and above**
- American Council of Teachers of Russian
- Applied Computer Technology, Inc.
- The Grainger Foundation
- The Hitachi Foundation
- IMSA Parents Council
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
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- Franklin Life Insurance Company
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While we carefully prepared this donor list, we recognize that some errors may have occurred. If your name has been inadvertently misspelled or omitted, please accept our apology and contact the Office of Institutional Advancement (708/801-6040) so that our records can be corrected.

Memorials
Memorial gifts are designated for a variety of uses at IMSA. Yet they all have a single purpose, to memorialize the loss of a close friend or loved one. Memorials were received between July 1, 1991 and June 30, 1992, in honor of the following people:

Chuck Aaron '89
Gene D. Baker
Richard L. Horwitz
Rachel Szech '92
Robert D. Snell
Mary Trusgnich