



**Return**  
**Reunite**  
**Recognize**

# IMSA HOMECOMING

**IMSA Board of Trustees  
Third Annual Alumni Awards  
Ceremony and Luncheon**

**Saturday, September 26, 2009**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Hilton Lisle/Naperville**



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# PROGRAM

## WELCOME

**Dr. Glenn W. "Max" McGee, President**  
*Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy*

## LUNCH

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. David Workman, Faculty Emeritus**  
*Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy*

## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

### ALUMNI TITAN AWARD

*Presented by Steven T. Isoye*  
*IMSA Board of Trustees, Chairman*  
*Principal, Maine East High School*

**Pooja K. Agarwal '01**

**Joshua A. Gerlick '99**

**Sendhil Revuluri '90**

### ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

*Presented by Samuel E. Dyson*  
*IMSA Board of Trustees*  
*Curriculum Collaborator and Physics Teacher*  
*Walter Payton College Prep High School*

**Dr. Thandeka K. Chapman '89**

**Dr. Rebecca Willett '96**

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Glenn W. "Max" McGee**

*All guests are welcome to join us for an informal reception located in the  
Evergreen Room at Allgauer's Restaurant in the hotel immediately following the  
Awards Luncheon.*

## About the Awards

The IMSA Board of Trustees Alumni Awards are the highest honors bestowed to alumni in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions to their field of endeavor, to IMSA, and to the citizens of Illinois, our nation and the world.

### Alumni Titan Award

The Alumni Titan Award, an annual award, honors alumni, who through outstanding service to IMSA, advance the institution's mission and work. The honorees are enthusiastic and energetic IMSA champions who dedicate significant time, talent and/or treasure to endeavors that help the Academy fulfill its role in developing talent and leadership in mathematics, science and technology for our state, nation and world.

### Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

The Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award, an annual award, goes to alumni who have made distinguished achievements or leadership contributions in their professional fields of endeavor consistent with IMSA's mission. The awardees also may be recognized for significant civic or community contributions or for extraordinary courage and selflessness under challenging circumstances.

### Alumni Trailblazer Award

The Alumni Trailblazer Award award is bestowed when merited and honors alumni who personify IMSA's philosophy statement that there will be alumni who "create new intellectual worlds, cure a dreaded human ailment or in some other way significantly influence life on our planet." The outstanding achievements of these honorees will have earned national or international prominence for a groundbreaking or sweeping initiative that has redefined and improved the way significant numbers of citizens live, learn or work. In 2009, there are no recipients in this award category.

*For more information on award guidelines, nominations, or previous award recipients, please visit [www.imsa.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.imsa.edu/alumni/awards). Deadline for nominations for the 2010 Alumni Awards is January 31.*

## Keynote Speaker

### Dr. David Workman

Dr. David Workman was born in Muskegon, Michigan and grew up surrounded by farms, lakes, Lake Michigan beaches, and close family. For years he had a morning paper route for which he got up at 5:00 AM every morning and developed the biking muscles that serve him well to this day. From the time he was 16 he had a motorcycle on which he explored every back road in the area. He got a B.S. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Kent State University; got married and had a son and daughter.



He spent eleven years teaching at George Williams College with Ron Pine and Norm Merczak in Downers Grove, Illinois. When that school closed in 1985, he took a chance and joined the newly created Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy as one of its charter faculty. He was proud to play a role in its creation and development. He is proudest of his role in the creation of problem-based learning at IMSA; and of the science program as it evolved from concept-centered, to discovery-based, to integrated science, to scientific inquiries. He has fond memories of bike club rides, heron research, corn fields, nerf guns, and practicing for the AP Physics exam; as well as many fine colleagues and even more memorable students. Now, as Emeritus Faculty, he has time to take IMSA methods international through his work with the best high school in Thailand, Mahidol Wittayanusorn, where he spends about six months each year working with students and teachers.

## Alumni Titan Award

### Pooja K. Agarwal '01

Pooja K. Agarwal has contributed a significant amount of time, talent and treasure to IMSA as an alumna. Following graduation, Agarwal became actively involved in the IMSA Alumni Association and served as an at-large cabinet member for three years. She volunteered as an Intersession facilitator from 2004-2007 and assisted as the alumni liaison in 2006, recruiting alumni and organizing appreciation activities. Agarwal's efforts helped to build the foundation for alumni volunteerism in Intersession, which reached record-high alumni participation in 2009. Since 2001, she has also been actively involved in the IMSA Kids Institute (KI) program as a teacher and member of the KI Alumni Advisory Committee. In addition, Agarwal coordinated a highly successful five-year reunion for her class and co-coordinated an alumni regional event in St. Louis. She served as a class agent for two years in support of the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education and serves as a member of the IMSA President's Alumni Advisory Committee (IPAAC). Agarwal is currently studying toward a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. She also serves as research coordinator for a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, conducting learning and memory research at a middle school in Columbia, IL. She is a proud recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship for her leadership and commitment to public service and is the vice president of the Truman Scholars Association.



## Alumni Titan Award – continued

### Joshua A. Gerlick '99



Joshua A. Gerlick has provided outstanding service to IMSA and is a loyal and generous supporter of the IMSA Fund. In early 2005, Gerlick participated in phone interviews for the IMSA TALENT Director. He also returned to the Academy in 2005 to serve as the Convocation speaker, and again in 2006 as an Intersession facilitator. During the 2006-07 school year, Gerlick dedicated a substantial amount of time towards volunteering at IMSA, in addition to relocating his home and business from Pittsburgh to Michigan. He served as a class agent for the annual fund, personally soliciting former classmates on behalf of the IMSA Fund. He also sent personal thank you notes to fellow alumni donors. In April 2007, Gerlick dedicated a week to spending time at

IMSA. He attended the IMSA20 Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner, participated in IMSAloquium as a poster judge, and returned to campus for the Presidential Candidates Day. Gerlick currently serves on the IMSA President's Alumni Advisory Council (IPAAC). A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Gerlick was the founding CEO of EADevices, and has extensive experience in product development, management consulting, team building and IT architecture development.

### Sendhil Revuluri '90

Sendhil Revuluri was instrumental in laying the foundation for many of IMSA's current alumni outreach activities. Well-known by alumni, Revuluri was one of a small group who worked diligently to strengthen the alumni network and the IMSA Alumni Association (IAA). As a cabinet member and treasurer of the Alumni Association, Sendhil assisted with early online outreach efforts, reunion planning, and fundraising appeals to alumni. His efforts paved the way for what would be a multi-year campaign to reach the \$1 million goal in alumni contributions for the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education. In addition to his service on the IAA Cabinet, Revuluri served as a member of the IMSA



Fund Board of Directors, helped coordinate regional events for alumni in New York and Chicago, and now serves on the IMSA President's Alumni Advisory Council (IPAAC). After IMSA, Revuluri studied physics and mathematics at the University of Chicago and traded equity derivatives for eight years before he helped found the Bronx Academy of Letters, a new public secondary school, in 2003. Last year, he became the Senior Instructional Specialist for secondary mathematics at the Chicago Public Schools. In this role, he works with colleagues in mathematics and across disciplines to manage the implementation of curriculum, teacher supports, and assessments in more than 40 high schools, as well as influencing other aspects of mathematics teaching and learning in the district.

# Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

## Dr. Thandeka K. Chapman '89

Dr. Thandeka K. Chapman is an Associate Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She has conducted research on policy implementation in desegregated schools, urban small school reforms, teaching and learning in racially diverse classrooms, and evaluating Social Justice curricula. Her most recent publications are six edited volumes of the *History of*

*Multicultural Education* co-edited with Carl A. Grant. She also co-edited a new book, *The Practice of Freedom: Social Justice Pedagogy in the United States*, to be published in February 2010. Other publications include: "Peddling Backwards: Reflections of *Plessy and Brown* in the Rockford Public Schools' Desegregation Efforts" (2005) in *Race Ethnicity and Education*, "The Power of Contexts: Teaching and Learning in Recently Desegregated Schools" (2007) in *Anthropology and Education*; and "Looking from points of strength: Using Portraiture and Critical Race Theory in educational research" (2007) in the *Educational Researcher*. She teaches educational research, curriculum, and urban education courses in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Masters Program and Urban Education Doctoral Program. She is the current Program Chair for the American

Educational Research Association, Teachers and Teacher Education Division (K). Dr. Chapman also works with several small high schools in Milwaukee to align their innovative curricula with benchmark assessments and state and district standards. She has shared her expertise with the IMSA community as a member of the Admissions Review Committee, as an invited guest speaker at IMSA during an Annual Teacher Recognition Day in 1997 and multicultural week in 2004. Dr. Chapman is a graduate of Spellman College, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

## Dr. Rebecca Willett '96

Prof. Rebecca Willett is a prolific contributor to the field of electrical and computer engineering through teaching, cutting-edge research and publishing as an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Duke University. Her teaching and research interests are focused on signal and image processing techniques and how these can be applied to help advance a variety of other fields, including medical imaging, astronomy, networks, and bioinformatics. As a testimony to the broad implications of her research, Prof. Willett is assisting the Department of Defense through her work on the Computer Science Study Panel, run by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Institute for Defense Analyses. Prof. Willett has received numerous awards, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, a prestigious recognition for young faculty. She has also held visiting researcher positions at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at UCLA, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA), and the Applied Science Research and Development Laboratory at GE Healthcare. Prof. Willett remains active in her community by encouraging young children to explore their potential in math and science. She is a volunteer instructor for FEMMES (Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and Science), an organization that provides outreach programs related to math, science and engineering for young girls from Durham public schools. She also serves as an exhibitor for the Sally Ride Science Festivals and has been an IMSA Intersession instructor. She received the B.S.E. (summa cum laude) in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Duke University in 2000, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Rice University in 2002 and 2005, respectively.





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



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