

3-30-2017

Recipient of the 2017 Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

Julie Comerford '98

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

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Program

Welcome & Introduction of Board of Trustees & Elected Officials

2017 Board of Trustees Alumni Awards

Alumni Trailblazer Award Presentation

Ms. Claudia Flores, J.D '93

Alumni Trailblazer Awardee Remarks

Alumni Titan Award Presentation

Ms. Jessica Droste Yagan '95

Alumni Titan Awardee Remarks

Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

Dr. Julie (Julia) Comerford '98

Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award Remarks (Video)

Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

Major Vincent Enriquez '99

Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award Remarks (Video)

Closing Remarks

Presenters/Speakers

Dr. José M. Torres

President

Ms. Sheila MB Griffin

Chairman and Founding Trustee

Ms. Claudia Flores, J.D '93

Ms. Jessica Droste Yagan '95

Dr. Julie (Julia) Comerford '98

Major Vincent Enriquez '99

Dr. Marie Dahleh

Principal

Board of Trustees Alumni Award Winners

Claudia Flores, J.D. '93—Alumni Trailblazer Award

Ms. Flores is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) at The University of Chicago Law School. IHRC works to promote and protect the human rights of individuals and communities globally. Prior to The University of Chicago Law School, Flores was a partner in the civil rights practice of Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd. Additionally, she served as constitutional and legal advisor for the United Nations in East Timor and Zimbabwe. She also managed a program of the American Center for International Labor Solidarity to combat human trafficking in Indonesia and was a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation in the Women's Rights Project. Flores was a Skadden Arps fellow at the International Women's Human Rights Clinic at City University of New York School of Law. She earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern scholar and received her B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Chicago.

Jessica Droste Yagan '95—Alumni Titan Award

Ms. Droste Yagan has given back generously to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy as a volunteer and donor. She has served as a thought and action partner for IMSA administrators and program leaders, particularly in the area of innovation and social entrepreneurship programming—advising and participating in the growth of TALENT and the design and launch of IN2—chaired Dr. Torres' Presidential Committee for Social Entrepreneurship, and promoting IMSA's work in her Impact Engine network and in Chicagoland media. Ms. Droste Yagan is currently Partner + CEO of Impact Engine, a venture fund that invests financial and human capital in early-stage, for-profit technology businesses that are improving education, health, economic empowerment, and resource efficiency. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Stanford Graduate School of Business, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Haverford College.

Board of Trustees Alumni Award Winners (cont'd)

Dr. Julie (Julia) Comerford '98—Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

Dr. Comerford is Assistant Professor in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she works on observations of kpc-scale separation dual supermassive black holes in merger-remnant galaxies. These objects are observable when one or both of the supermassive black holes accrete gas as active galactic nuclei (AGN), in systems known as offset AGN and dual AGN, respectively. She uses research as a tool for education, teaming up with PhD Comics to create a video “Black Holes Explained,” which has received over 50,000 views on YouTube. Additionally, she has been working to improve equity and inclusion at University of Colorado, working with the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance to introduce harassment training to the department and bias training for graduate admissions committees and faculty hiring committees, which may soon be implemented campus-wide. Dr. Comerford graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Astrophysical Sciences from Princeton University, her Masters of Arts in Astrophysics from University of California, Berkeley and her Ph.D. in Astrophysics from University of California, Berkeley.

Major Vincent Enriquez '99—Alumni Distinguished Leadership Award

Major Enriquez served as part of Operation Enduring Freedom with deployments in Afghanistan and PACOM Theater. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Sapper Tab, Ranger Tab, and Special Forces Tab. His foreign awards include the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold), and Australian, Korean, and Thai Airborne Wings.

Army Ranger and Special Forces “Green Beret” Major Vincent Enriquez graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Commission as an Engineer Officer. His military schooling includes Engineer Basic Course, maneuver Captains Career Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, SEREC, Ranger School, Sapper School, Air Assault School, and Jumpmaster School. A Downing Scholar at the Combating Terrorism Center at the United States Military Academy at West Point, he completed his Mid-Career Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA) at the Harvard Kennedy School and completed a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



2017 Board of Trustees Alumni Awards

Ceremony
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Gymnasium
11:25 am – 12:25 pm

