

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLASS OF 1992

by

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall
Executive Director
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

IMSA GRADUATION - May 30, 1992

Thank you, Mr. Court, and good morning. I want to add my words of welcome to those of Mr. Pearson, and say how appreciative we are to see so many of you here today, to honor the Class of 1992.

In addition to saying goodbye to our seniors, we are also bidding farewell and best wishes to a member of the Academy's charter faculty. Dr. Charles Cannon, of IMSA's chemistry team, will become the Chairman of ^{undergraduate} Mathematics and Science at Columbia College in Chicago. Charles, we wish you well.

Like the three classes before it, the Class of 1992 has helped to shape a ~~significant~~ part of the Academy's history.

In 1989, when this class entered the Academy, we had just graduated our Charter Class, and so they began a new phase of IMSA's development--participating as seniors in the first Thompson Leadership Lecture and the first Richard L. Horwitz Ethics Lecture, which also honored them.

The Class of 1992 has distinguished itself not only with the recognitions Mr. Pearson cited, with *admission* to the *finest* schools in Illinois and the nation, and *with literally millions of dollars* worth of scholarships, but also with the talent, perseverance, and goodness of character which will enhance the quality of life for others.

In addition to the National Merit finalists, semi-finalists and commended students that comprise over 75 percent of this class, the Class of 1992 contributed over 15,000 hours of community service to the citizens of Illinois, by serving as volunteers in hospitals, YMCA's, libraries, senior citizen facilities, ~~and child abuse shelters~~. Numerous seniors students, participated in the Key Club's Senior Citizen Dance for Aurora, and the ~~class~~ ^{students} raised over \$17,000 for ~~senior~~ ^{their} Class activities.

As the Academy continues to ^{examine} ~~challenge itself to examine~~
^{175 leadership role to many} ~~our role as leaders~~, some of our seniors have been
^{challenging us} instrumental in ~~charging the entire IMSA community~~ to see
ourselves as members of a global village.

Through the dynamic leadership of some members of the
senior class and other ^{Student} PUGWASH ^{Society} members, our final
^{entitled} Saturday Seminar, *Visions for a Sustainable World: A
Seminar on Science, Technology, and Social Responsibility*,
was a tremendous success. ^{led us to new understanding of the interdependence} The senior leadership in ^{of our}
^{us} Student PUGWASH has consistently challenged ~~others~~ ^{planet}
~~within the organization, as well as the Academy~~ to consider
our moral obligations to ^{humanity} humankind.

^{these achievements indicate}
As ~~you can see~~, the students in the Class of 1992 are
enormously talented and capable young people; they are
also caring ~~human beings~~. ^{individuals}

Like their predecessors, they too have been pioneers,
helping to shape the commitments and spirit of the
Academy.

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Carl Sagan, who is a member of the Academy's National Advisory Board, called the Academy a gift from the people of Illinois to the human future.

But these special young people have also given us a gift and helped to craft a legacy; their youthful energy, tremendous enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, seriousness of purpose, and significant accomplishments, have enhanced us all, and we are enriched by having shared a part of their lives.

As graduates, we hope you feel we have also given you a piece of us, and as you reflect on your years at IMSA and this day, we hope you feel you have been given more than a diploma.

We hope you feel that your capacity for problem-solving + creativity has been enhanced, that you have been encouraged to think dynamically & integratively & that you have gained an ~~sense~~ awareness of & appreciation for our responsibility to take care of each other, ourselves, & our world.



I would like to read a letter from a special citizen of Illinois, who sends his congratulations and best wishes to our graduates. . .

READ GOVERNOR'S LETTER

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 West Sullivan Road
Aurora, Illinois 60506

Dear Graduates:

It is with great pride, as Governor of the State of Illinois, that I congratulate the graduating class of 1992.

It has taken great perseverance and dedication to reach this day and you should all be very proud of your accomplishments. Tomorrow will be a new beginning and you will face many new challenges as you prepare to establish your life's course. As you encounter these challenges, you may do so with great confidence and conviction for you are the leaders of tomorrow.

Please accept my best wishes for success in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Edgar".

Jim Edgar
GOVERNOR

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On behalf of our Board of Trustees and Mr. Court, and with the gratitude of our faculty and staff, our parents, the friends who are gathered here, and our shareholders in the state of Illinois, *I accept the members of the Class of 1992, and bestow upon them, the diploma and commencement medallion of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.*

Congratulations, and God speed!