

Convocation

August 19, 2010



IMSA Convocation

Prelude Music

Flim

Richard D. James

Tenderly

Walter Gross & Jack Lawrence

Melinda Waltz

Balaji Mani, composed at IMSA

Balaji Mani

2006 IMSA Graduate

Pledge of Allegiance & Welcome

Shawon Jackson '11

Student Council President

Dr. Glenn W. "Max" McGee

President

Dr. Eric McLaren

Principal

Featured Piece

West Sullivan

Balaji Mani, composed for Convocation 2010

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Julie Comerford

1998 IMSA Graduate

Biographies

Dr. Julie Comerford '98

Julie Comerford grew up in Charleston, Illinois, and graduated from the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in 1998. She earned an A.B. in Astrophysics from Princeton University in 2002, and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2009.

Dr. Comerford has received numerous fellowships and awards, as well as authored several publications. Julie has often been invited to speak at prestigious universities throughout the United States, as well as present at various conferences.

She is now starting a W.J. McDonald Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas, Austin, where she will study galaxies that have two supermassive black holes at their hearts.

Balaji Mani '06

Balaji Mani graduated from IMSA in 2006, moving to Cambridge, MA to pursue his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Environmental Engineering, with a focus on Health and Disease. He currently plans to continue health and medical related research in Boston before pursuing graduate school in medicine or environmental health engineering.

He currently performs in Boston with a West-African pop band, a Balinese gamelan orchestra, and his own progressive rock band. His most recent performances include appearances at the Bang On A Can Marathon in New York, the Africa Nights Festival in Montreal, and a world-premiere performance with Kronos Quartet at New York's Lincoln Center.

IMSA's Mission & Beliefs

The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®, the world's leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.

Beliefs

We Believe That...

- All people have equal intrinsic worth.
- All people have choices and are responsible for their actions.
- Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good.
- Diverse perspectives enrich understanding and inspire discovery and creativity.
- Honesty, trust and respect are vital for any relationship to thrive.
- Learning never ends.
- Meaning is constructed by the learner.
- No one's path in life is predetermined.
- The ability to discern and create connections is the essence of knowing.
- We are all stewards of our planet.

