

IMSA CONVOCATION - AUGUST 29, 1988

1. OPENING SELECTIONS
2. PROCESSIONAL
3. LEON LEDERMAN
4. DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Thank you, Dr. Lederman.

A very special good evening to you. To our Juniors and Seniors, it's good to have you back. You were sorely missed--the Academy was not the same without you. And to our new students, the Class of 1991, welcome to the IMSA family and your new home. We are excited that you are here and have chosen to join our pioneering community. It is indeed a privilege and a joy to welcome you here tonight.

This is the third time the Academy community has assembled for a Convocation, and it is a special time. A Convocation represents a coming together, a formal calling of a community, and a time for reflection and celebration.

We begin the academic year in this way to symbolize our abiding recommitment to our mission--the cultivation of

scholarship and learning. The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is a community of scholars, and you join us to night as part of that community. This night is also special because it represents the beginning of our third year--a year we were not always certain we would have.

As most of you know, much has transpired since July of last year. We have come through some significant challenges, and now we have a feeling of optimism, potential and hope. The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is viewed not only as a state symbol, but as a national symbol of Illinois' investment in the development of future leadership in science, mathematics, and technology.

The Academy has demonstrated our state's commitment to educational excellence, and it has reaffirmed our willingness to support intellectual curiosity, and to provide resources for what we value. In creating and sustaining this institution, Illinois has acknowledged the

importance of teaching and learning; it has encouraged experimentation and risk, and it has demonstrated that the key to our future economic, scientific, and technological growth lies with the development of--our brightest minds.

The Academy has focused attention on our state. It has renewed state pride because it provides an environment for talented youngsters to develop their potential, and then to cultivate and use it for the public good. And that repayment to Illinois and our society is a pervasive commitment of this school. As a staff, we will pay back by sharing what we learn with teachers across our state; and as students, you will pay back by becoming the ethical and responsible leaders of the next Century. That's a tall order--but it is the pledge we all make when we come to the Academy.

5. DAVID KUNG, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It is now a pleasure for me to introduce DAVID KUNG, Student Council President, who has a few words of welcome.

6. INTRODUCTION OF INDIVIDUAL CLASSES--89, 90, 91

It is a sincere pleasure for me to now introduce each one of our classes to our faculty--your teachers, counselors, and administrators. I will call each class and ask that you remain standing until the entire student body is standing.

Would the members of the Charter Class of 1989, please stand.

(FACULTY APPLAUDS)

Would the members of the class of 1990, please stand.

(FACULTY APPLAUDS)

Would the members of our new class, the Class of 1991, please stand.

(FACULTY APPLAUDS)

7. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

It is now a pleasure for me to introduce our staff; those people with whom you will share much of your life this year.

Would the faculty, staff, and resident counselors, and administrative staff of the Academy please stand.

8. ANNOUNCE MUSICAL SELECTION:

1st Class Brass - George Blogg, Director

"Poet and Peasant Overture" by Franz VonSuppe

9. INTRODUCE DR. DONALD FRYE - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker this evening, Dr. Donald Frye. Dr. Frye is the past Chief Executive Officer of Bell and Howell, and currently Professor of Industrial Engineering at

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Northwestern University. We are honored and privileged to have Dr. Frye with us as our keynote speaker. The excellence of keynote speakers at IMSA Convocations was established when Dr. Lederman was our speaker at IMSA's first Convocation, an historic event. Dr. Frye continues that tradition of excellence.

Would you please join me in giving a warm welcome to Dr. Frye, who will speak to us about "What's Science For?"

(KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

Thank you, Dr. Frye.

Dr. Frye has presented us with insights about science, the challenges you face, and the opportunities you have for future discovery. He presented you with a challenge to question, to explore, to imagine, to dream, and to create.

I hope you take that challenge seriously because that is what the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is all

about. I want to close with another challenge...it is reflected in the parable, Aaron's Journey, by Julie Fairley.

AARON'S JOURNEY

Curiosity among kangaroos is not all that common.

Generally speaking, they are content to hop around munching on trees and other kangaroos. An exception to the rule was Aaron. From birth he had been an inquisitive kanga. He was never content to remain within the confines of his mother's pouch. He was forever popping out his head to look around. He was incessantly begging to be taken to new places.

Imagine his consternation when his father told Aaron one evening that his parents had been called away and he could not go along. When Aaron asked why not, he was told that the journey was very, very long--covering two entire continents--and that they feared for his welfare.

Rather than satisfying Aaron, the news only pliqued his curiosity all the more.

On the day his parents left, Aaron followed them. He remained hidden during the day, but at night, when they were asleep, he would carefully steal his way into his mother's pouch and sleep. Before dawn he would ease his way out and continue his pursuit.

The little kangaroo was thrilled with all the wonderful adventures that each day brought. In the distance he saw his Mom and Dad dragging their feet in the dunes and was frightened but kept on. Then happily, they came to water, and he watched his parents playfully splash each other with their tails. That evening he nestled once again with his mother.

Suddenly he was awakened! His mother was hopping--yet he knew it wasn't dawn. Carefully he peeked over the top of her pouch and saw that they were entering a very large, unusual structure. Once inside, his mother rested and he seized the opportunity to creep away from her and hide. For



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days and days they remained in a small, dark stall until Aaron's patience was gone and he bounded from his hiding place and said, "Hi Mom and Dad!" The immediate shock and joy on his parents' faces were suddenly overshadowed by fear as a large human came to the stall. He looked from Aaron to his mother and father and then smiled and walked away, and until this day no one has ever known that Noah allowed three kangaroos on the ark.

It follows...

THOSE WHOSE DESIRE TO KNOW, EXCEEDS THEIR DESIRE FOR SAFETY  
ARE THOSE WHO SHAPE HISTORY.

IMSA is a place where shaping history is decidedly possible for all of us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the administration, faculty, and staff, welcome to the Academy and the beginning of another exciting year.