

Acceptance of the Class of 1993

by

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall

IMSA Graduation-June 5, 1993

Thank you, Mr. Court, and good morning.

I want to add my words of welcome to those of Mr. McEachern, and say how appreciative we all are to see so many of you here today, to honor the Class of 1993.

Like the four classes before it, the Class of 1993 has helped to shape the Academy's history.

In 1990, when this class enrolled as sophomores, and some temporarily moved into the main building to live for the last time, we were in the very early stages of implementing the Academy's first strategic plan.

Key initiatives focused on developing concept-centered curriculum, redefining the faculty's role, piloting alternative forms of assessing student learning, and building partnerships ^{↙ Collaborations} throughout Illinois.

Members of the Class of 1993 were part of this bold experiment, and together we took major steps forward in our efforts to develop programs and strategies that foster interconnections and integrative ways of knowing.

This senior class also benefitted greatly from new and expanded resources and programs made possible by increased state and private sector support--resources such as the ProQuest computer system, the Toyota Video Production Laboratory, the Grainger Inventors' Workshop, the Strategies for Success Center, the Natural Helpers program, and ~~even~~, ^{perhaps most importantly} a new cafeteria!

Members of the Class of 1993 have distinguished themselves ^{only} in many ways--with numerous academic awards, ^{only} some of which Mr. McEachern cited, with admission to the finest schools in Illinois and the nation, and with literally millions of dollars worth of scholarships.

Just as important, however, this class has demonstrated the ethical leadership, ^{of the} perseverance, and character that we believe will ^{have} ~~greatly~~ ^{profound impact on} enhance the quality of life for others in ~~the years ahead.~~ ^{our world.}

^{their Academic intellectual achievements have been impressive, but perhaps most important is that}
 Just as an example, these seniors contributed more than 14,000 hours of community service to the citizens of Illinois by serving as volunteers in hospitals, senior citizen and child care facilities, schools, libraries, animal shelters, and museums—

^{as they did so, before community service was the politically correct thing to do.}

As their accomplishments indicate, the students in the Class of 1993 are enormously talented and capable young people; but they also are caring and thoughtful human beings, ^{respectful of each other & the place we call}
 IMSA.

Like their predecessors, they too have been pioneers, helping to shape the commitments, spirit and ^{ethos} culture of the Academy, and helping to advance ~~the~~ ^{our} institution's leadership role in American education.

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

But these special young people also have given us a gift--a gift of their youthful energy, enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, seriousness of purpose, and significant accomplishments--and we all have been enriched by having shared a part of their lives.

Members of the Class of 1993 have left a strong and vibrant legacy for ^{these} students who will follow in the years ahead. *and for that we are all grateful.*

As our newest graduates, we hope you feel we have also given you a ^{part} piece of us, and, ^{that} in the end, ^{you have received} much more than a diploma. We hope you feel that your capacity for ^{fully} problem solving and creativity has been nurtured; that your ability to forge connections within and among mathematics, science, the arts and the humanities has been enhanced; and that your leadership potential ^{at these programs} has been developed. *found here*

And We hope you have grown to appreciate more than ever, your individual and collective responsibility to live in harmony with yourselves, other human beings and the physical world and ^{and that in so doing} ~~we hope~~ you will work tirelessly ~~in the years ahead~~ to make the world a better place.

congratulations
|| those to whom much ~~has~~ ^{has} been given,
much is expected.

We live in an ^{age} time where convictions, commitments and covenants will be ~~more than political correct they will~~ essential for global survival.

I'd like to read a letter from a special friend of the Academy who sends his congratulations to the Class of 1993.

Dear Graduates:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am honored to congratulate the 1993 graduating class of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

It has taken extraordinary determination and conviction to arrive at this day and you should all be very proud of your accomplishments. The future will provide many new challenges for you to face. As you meet these challenges, you may do so with great confidence for you are the leaders of tomorrow.

Best wishes for success in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

*Jim Edgar
Governor*

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On behalf of the board of trustees, and with the gratitude of Mr. Court, the entire Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy staff, your families and friends who are here today, and our shareholders throughout the State of Illinois, I accept the members of the Class of 1993 and bestow upon them the diploma and commencement medallion of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

Congratulations, and God speed.