

CONVOCATION

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1997 -

2:30 PM

President's Welcome

I. Opening Selections - Alumni Brad Friedman

Good ~~morning~~. *afternoon*

Would you please join me in thanking Brad once again for his superb performance.

Thank you, Brad.

afternoon

A very special good ~~morning~~ to each of you; and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, welcome to the beginning of a new academic year.

It's wonderful to see all our juniors and seniors again; to extend a ^{warm} ~~special~~ welcome to several alumni who are here with us today, and to extend a very special greeting to our 228 new students, the Class of 2000.

We are delighted you have accepted our invitation to join our unique community.

As Sophomores, you no doubt feel a little homesick, a little lost, and perhaps, a little anxious - or maybe a lot anxious - if you do, just think about your parents!

But you need to look around you at the other 600 people that are here and know that we are all here to support you, to help you be successful, and to create an environment where you to can become more of who you wish to be.

(CLASS STAND)

At this time, I would like the class of the new millennium to please stand, so we might officially welcome you to our community.

(PAUSE)

This is the eleventh time the Academy has assembled for a Convocation, and it is always a special time.

A Convocation represents a coming together; a formal calling of a community, and a time for reflection and celebration.

We begin our year together in this way to publicly re-affirm our commitment to one another, to the mission and beliefs of our learning community, to personal growth and discovery, and to the connections and bonds we share.

Every Convocation is a special one, because it formally invites us into all the possibilities of a new year; and today is no exception, because it represents the official beginning of IMSA's Second Decade.

In our first ten years, we established the Academy and began to demonstrate its potential power as a leader in educational transformation.

Our Second Decade must now be marked by tangible evidence of how we serve the State of Illinois.

*positive power
to*

Our challenges remain great, but so do our opportunities. Together, I am confident we will *conclude* demonstrate loudly and clearly the power of the IMSA idea.

(INTRODUCE DR. GREGG SINNER)

And now it's a pleasure for me to introduce our principal, Dr. Gregg Sinner.

(GREGG SPEAKS)

Thank you Gregg

(INTRODUCE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT - JENNIFER WANG)

III. It is now a delight to introduce our Student Council President, Jennifer Wang, who is a senior from Oakbrook.

Dr. Sinner and I have been ^{very} impressed by Jen's commitment and her leadership. She has many things she wants to accomplish this year and one is to ^{WORK WITH} help you, as students, ^{to} become more involved in contributing to IMSA's role of

statewide service to the students and the teachers of Illinois.

Last year a group of IMSA students created *Real Science*, a CD rom interactive science magazine for students in grades 3-5.

This year several IMSA students became involved as facilitators and coaches in several of our student summer programs.

These are only two initiatives, but the possibilities are endless for your involvement and Jen and the Student Council Officers look forward to working with you.

Jen.

(JEN SPEAKS)

Thank you, Jen.

(MUSICAL SELECTION)

And now, would you please join me in welcoming, once again, Brad Friedman, who will play *Hungarian Rhapsody No10* by Frantz Liszt.

(BRAD PLAYS)

Brad, on behalf of all of us, we thank you for your gift of music; you have enriched us all and made this a very special Convocation. (Brad graduated from IMSA in 1996, and is now beginning his second year at the University of Illinois at the Urbana Champaign Campus.)

(PRESENT FLOWERS)

(INTRODUCE MICHAEL PEIL)

And now, It is a delight to introduce our keynote speaker.

IV. Three years ago, the Convocation Task Force recommended that we have an IMSA graduate as the Convocation speaker. And this year we are delighted to have Michael Peil, a member of the class of 1990 and newly elected President of the IMSA Alumni Association and an annual contributor to the IMSA Fund. Michael is truly putting his money where his commitment is!

Michael's impressive vitae is described in our program; but more than his academic achievements is his untiring commitment to the service of others, especially the Alumni Association and we are honored and privileged to have him with us. He flew in from Cornell University where he is currently teaching and will return there after Convocation. He will be moving permanently to Chicago this Spring. .

JEN - at Michael's request, JEN will introduce him - from May to June

** Would you please join me in giving him a most warm welcome!*

(KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

Thank you, Michael.

- V. We are very grateful for your contributions to our Convocation. We are proud of what you are becoming and we wish you God Speed in all your endeavors.

(PAUSE)

I am uplifted by the positive energy, the sense of possibility, and the spirit of collaboration and good will present in the Academy.

We must build on our connectedness and follow the three simple rules Mr. Quinby offered us several years ago:

- Take care of yourself;
- Take care of each other, and
- Take care of this remarkable place, and the ideas, values, and commitments we have publicly articulated.

We have three very powerful challenges as we enter the second decade of IMSA" history and they are all related to creating greater coherence, integration, and leverage in our work. They are:

1. To increase IMSA's capacity to help IMSA students become integrative learners and ethical leaders with a deep understanding of themselves, their world and their place in it.
2. To lead the transformation of teaching and learning in mathematics and science in Illinois and beyond.
3. To build the capacity of Illinois educators (including IMSA educators) to transform mathematics and science teaching and learning in their settings.

The collective voice of IMSA is becoming a powerful and distinguished one and we must make sure we keep it healthy and strong and use it with clarity and integrity to redefine teaching and learning in our nation.

And so as we close this 11th Convocation, I wish for each of you, what I wish for all of us; a year of physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being; a year of continued growth and new learning; of new friendships and relationships,

and a year of reflection, collaboration and opportunity -

- 1) Reflecting on the gifts we have been given,**
- 2) Collaborating on what we can all give back to those that have entrusted IMSA to our care and,**
- 3) Celebrating the remarkable diversity and wonderful opportunities and blessings we share.**

This concludes our Convocation; please join us with Brad, Michael, and Jen for our 11th Year Birthday Celebration.