

# COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLASS OF 2015

Illinois Mathematics and  
Science Academy®

Saturday, May 30, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

Paramount Theatre  
Aurora, Illinois



# PROGRAM

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**Prelude** ..... **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**  
IMSA Graduation Choir

**Selections performed by the IMSA Graduation Choir** ..... **Emily Sites**  
Conductor

**Selections performed by the IMSA Graduation Band** ..... **Mary Beth McCarthy**  
Conductor

**Processional** ..... **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**  
IMSA Graduation Band

*Pomp & Circumstance from Military Marches op.39, no.1* ..... **Edward Elgar**

*(Please rise as the graduates enter and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.)*

**Pledge of Allegiance** ..... **Vinesh Kannan**  
President, Student Council

**Welcome – Reflections on This Day** ..... **Priya Trivedi**  
Treasurer, Student Council

**Reflections on IMSA** ..... **Vinesh Kannan**  
President, Student Council

**Introduction of Commencement Speaker** ..... **Sheila MB Griffin**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

**Commencement Address** ..... **Jamie N. Jones Ph.D.**  
Innovation Advisor at RTI International and Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation,  
Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University

**Presentation of the Class of 2015** ..... **Branson D. Lawrence, Jr.**  
Principal

**Acceptance of the Class of 2015** ..... **José M. Torres, Ph.D.**  
President

**Presentation of Diplomas and Medallions** ..... **Sheila MB Griffin**  
**José M. Torres**

**Presentation of Candidates** ..... **Timothy Gietl**  
President, Class of 2015

**Ashley Kim**  
Member, Class of 2015

**Recessional** ..... **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**  
IMSA Graduation Band

**Graduation Marshals** ..... Members, Class of 2016

**Andrew Adams**  
**Harith Alappat**  
**Hannah Chaddha**  
**Tiffany Ding**

**Heidi Dong**  
**Vedhik Kodavatiganti**  
**Arthur Ortiz**  
**Cristal Quinones**

*(Please remain in the Theatre until all graduates and staff have exited.)*

**Max Tucker Ackerman**

Arlington Heights

**Timothy Oluwatobi Akintilo**

Bourbonnais

**Nicole Marie Aldridge**

Bloomington

**Waleed Ali**

Peoria

**Tahj Amir Alli-Balogun**

Frankfort

**Vikram Sriram Anjur**

Aurora

**Samantha A. Arrez**

Chicago

**Daniel John Atten**

West Dundee

**Eric Salvador Barrientos**

Berwyn

**Brendan Joseph Batliner**

Crystal Lake

**Hannah Marie Beers**

Hillsboro

**Vimal Sai Bellamkonda**

Peoria

**Anna Francesca Borromeo**

West Chicago

**Marissa Catherine Brock**

La Grange

**Jacob Lee Brown**

Sugar Grove

**Remy Hunan Bubulka**

Naperville

**Kristen Iman Byrd**

Olympia Fields

**Austin Cao**

Naperville

**Kristin N. Carlson**

Elgin

**Edward James Carson**

Oak Brook

**Ryan James Chandler**

Plainfield

**Diana Karen Chen**

Darien

**Kyle B. Chen**

Lisle

**Xindi Chen**

Lake Forest

**Samuel K. Cheung**

Champaign

**Greeshma Chilukuri**

Plainfield

**Mary Christa Cody**

Sycamore

**Daniel Price Collins**

Bushnell

**Ana Maria Curtis**

Macomb

**Amy Bibiana De La Torre**

Carpentersville

**Mason Allen Dearborn**

Yorkville

**Jennifer S. Du**

Carbondale

**Grace Y. Duan**

Naperville

**Alyssa Chantawn Evans**

Chicago Heights

**Nisa Faheem**

Huntley

**Molly Kaye Fane**

Dixon

**Yan Lin Feng**

Bloomington

**Marissa Ann Foster-Borchering**

West Chicago

**Ryan Elliot Franks**

Highland Park

**Natasha Danielle Freund**

Shabbona

**Geronimo Estrada Garcia III**

Forsyth

**Rebecca Grace Geiger**

Aurora

**Timothy John George Gietl**

Batavia

**Cammille C. Go**

Naperville

**Daniel J. Gonzalez**

Plainfield

**Yasmine Lynn Gordon**

Oswego

**Lohitha Guntupalli**

Springfield

**Alexandra M. Guzman**

Montgomery

**Omar Andrew Hafiz**

Barrington

**Jade Andrea Halverson**

Loves Park

**Karin Yang Han**

Chatham

**Kayla Anne Hannon**

Belleville

**Rhea Harsoor**

Oak Brook

**Eric Stephen Hennenfent**

Homer Glen

**Lija Marie Kulys Hoffman**

Inverness

**Leehwa Evania Hong**

Des Plaines

**Michael Joseph Hrcek**

Yorkville

**Fengling Hu**

Burr Ridge

**Jack Huang**

Chicago

**Alyda Huerta**

North Aurora

**Raven P. Jackson**

Richton Park

**Arjit Jaiswal**

Aurora

**Vivian Jin**

Naperville

**Alexandra Lea Johnson**

Homer Glen

**Sharon Marilyn Johnson**

Des Plaines

**Edward Jisuk Jun**

Warrenville

**Vinesh Girish Kannan**

Schaumburg

**Andrew Charles Kazenas**

Itasca

**Abrar M. Khaja**

Lincolnwood

**Omair Mohammed Khan**

Libertyville

**Nicholas James Kiene**

Poplar Grove

**Ashley Eunjee Kim**

Roselle

**Nisha Madhuri Kishore**

Peoria

**Max Kontorovich**

Buffalo Grove

**Sanjay Venkata Kottapalli**

Clarendon Hills

**Kathryn Jane Kuna**

Naperville

**Sophia ShinSee Lam**

Chicago

**Braden Miles Lauder**

Lanark

**Claire Songhyun Lee**

Champaign

**Ka Wai Lee**

Rolling Meadows

**Laura Daniela Lehmann**

Montgomery

**Dayna K. Lei**

Romeoville

**Maximilian Rey Lembo**

Wauconda

**Jaida Nichole Lewis**

Matteson

**Quinn Tat Szeto Lewis**

Glen Ellyn

**Patty Kit Li**

Des Plaines

**Eveline Shenyi Liu**

Naperville

**Vivian Wei Liu**

Charleston

**Harishankar Logaraj**

Aurora

**Sarai Rebeca Lopez**

Chicago

**Hsing-Duan Louh**

Roscoe

**Malachi Reed Loviska**

Troy

**Derek Ryan Lubecke**

Yorkville

**Danielle Leilani Madsen**

Downers Grove

**Nicholas Alexander Magerko**

Lake in the Hills

**Robert Jacob Magyar**

Elk Grove Village

**Rohit Mahankali**

Plainfield

**Fernando Maldonado**

Chicago

**Sameeksha H. Malhotra**

Naperville

**Alec Sample Mangan**

Freeport

**Alonzo Thomas Marsh**

Woodridge

**Monica Shelly Mastrud**

Batavia

**Megan E. McKeown**

Island Lake

**Michelle-Ann Catañag Meas**

Oswego

**Puja Mittal**

Peoria

**Matthew J. Moranz**

St. Anne

**Alexander Paul Moreno**

Bartlett

**Timothy W. Morris**

Naperville

**Emily Mu**

Naperville

**Luke Robert Musgrave**

Bourbonnais

**August Henry Nagro**

Gurnee

**Seungwoo Nam**

Savoy

**Saraswathi Nookala**

Peoria

**Nida Normantaite**

Orland Park

**Evan Patrick O'Brien**

Elmhurst

**Julian Victor Pacheco**

Aurora

**Somie Park**

Springfield

**Haneesha Paruchuri**

Bolingbrook

**Dawson Dusiyantkumar Patel**

Plainfield

**Mit Mahendra Patel**

Schaumburg

*Continued on back page*

**Shuchi Patel**  
Orland Park

**Rajiv Timothy Patel-O'Connor**  
Peoria

**Daniel Benjamin Pechi**  
Wheaton

**Breanna Dee Pederson**  
Batavia

**Jonathan Daniel Peloquin**  
Sycamore

**Evelyn Perez**  
Cicero

**Luselena Aime Perez Laureano**  
Lemont

**Molly Grace Pfeiffer**  
Glendale Heights

**Matthew Alexander Pomella**  
Elgin

**Sean Francis Potempa**  
Evergreen Park

**Archit Vishnu Potharazu**  
West Dundee

**Kody Allen Puebla**  
Moline

**Ahsan Ahmed Qureshi**  
Crystal Lake

**Emily Hayes Rader**  
Clare

**Aishwarya Raj**  
Aurora

**Sattvic Ray**  
Naperville

**Maureen Catherine Reiser**  
Petersburg

**Jonathan Douglas Reynolds**  
Moline

**Dennis Theodore Rich**  
Bloomington

**Megan Rose Roller**  
Algonquin

**Aquila Ryu**  
Palatine

**Tariq James Sachleben**  
Oak Park

**Andrew Herbst Salij**  
Riverside

**Rodrigo Alfonso Sanchez**  
Lansing

**Nicole Lynn Schubert**  
Oak Park

**Britney Renee Scott**  
Sycamore

**Bhairvi Shah**  
Watseka

**Milan R. Shah**  
Orland Park

**Aniruddha Shekara**  
Bloomington

**Christopher Junsik Shin**  
Naperville

**Nikko Dean Sideris**  
Union

**Bailey Ocean Simmons-Brown**  
Chicago

**Sachi Ajay Singh**  
Plainfield

**Janani Nirmala Sivakumar**  
Tower Lakes

**Emma Neiberg Sloan**  
River Forest

**Katie Emily Slowikowski**  
Plainfield

**Dayvon Juan Snell**  
Matteson

**Tera Elizabeth Sparks**  
O'Fallon

**Remmie Aileen Spinks**  
Oak Forest

**Simona Stancov**  
Lansing

**Lajvanthi Sudhakar**  
Bolingbrook

**Ranjani Lakshmi Sundar**  
Naperville

**Nathan William Sutphen**  
Lanark

**Adit Suvarna**  
St. Charles

**Shelly S. Teng**  
Clarendon Hills

**Yash A. Thacker**  
Normal

**Shveta Thakkar**  
Mundelein

**Sneha Thakkar**  
Mundelein

**Rashmi Thimmapuram**  
Westmont

**Kyle Anthony Thomas**  
Aurora

**Katrina Helen Toman**  
Antioch

**Rajiv Sanjay Trehan**  
Hoffman Estates

**Priya Trivedi**  
Naperville

**Jayathi Renuka Varadheeswaran**  
Naperville

**Vivek Vermani**  
Buffalo Grove

**Aaron Lewis Victor**  
Seneca

**Brian Vien**  
Round Lake

**Amanda Kaplowitz Walsh**  
LaGrange

**Paul Yi Chuan Wang**  
Peoria Heights

**Wenhan Wang**  
Lisle

**Ziang Wang**  
Peoria

**William Widjaja**  
Aurora

**Grant T. Williams**  
Matteson

**Bria Safé Williamson**  
Olympia Fields

**Irina A. Wirjan**  
North Aurora

**Thomas Yue Wu**  
Roscoe

**Yiqiao Wu**  
Naperville

**Zachary Joel Yager**  
Crystal Lake

**Alan Saint Yang**  
Darien

**Ryan Ran Yang**  
Hanover Park

**Mayuri Anri Yasuda**  
Batavia

**Sung W. Yeo**  
Wheeling

**Guna Yerrabolu**  
Bloomington

**Marla Zepeda**  
Roselle

**Timothy Yu Zhou**  
Bolingbrook

*Special thanks to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education for underwriting the use of the Paramount Theatre for Commencement.*

*The need to understand how the universe works is fundamental to human nature. It is also essential for safely managing the human future; but foolishly, we have designed a society based on science and technology in which hardly anyone understands science and technology. This is a clear prescription for disaster.*

*Our future depends on producing and encouraging highly competent, ethically responsible young scientists, as well as a much greater scientific literacy in the general public.*

*The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois, is dedicated to meeting this challenge... It is a gift from the people of Illinois to the human future.*

**Dr. Carl Sagan, 1934-1996**

# IMSA CLASS OF 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

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The many accomplishments of the Class of 2015 are too vast for listing individually. The following snapshot of this past year (as of May 13, 2015) captures many of our seniors' remarkable achievements. Other well-deserving students were awarded honors and recognitions from a wide array of local, state and national organizations in the arts, humanities, athletics, mathematics and science.

**AP International Diploma:** Waleed Ali

**National Advanced Placement Scholars:** Waleed Ali, Camille Go, Jack Huang, Ka Wai Lee, Archit Potharazu, Sattvic Ray, Emma Sloan, Timothy Zhou

**Advanced Placement Scholars With Distinction:** Waleed Ali, Vikram Anjur, Vimal Bellamkonda, Remy Bubulka, Jennifer Du, Grace Duan, Camille Go, Fengling Hu, Jack Huang, Sanjay Kottapalli, Ka Wai Lee, Eveline Liu, Harishankar Logaraj, Alonzo Marsh, Emily Mu, Rajiv Patel-O'Connor, Archit Potharazu, Sattvic Ray, Emma Sloan, Shveta Thakkar, Sneha Thakkar, Kyle Thomas, Alan Yang, Timothy Zhou

**Advanced Placement Scholars With Honors:** Xindi Chen, Vivian Jin, Edward Jun, Max Kontorovich, Patty Li, Ahsan Qureshi, Dennis Rich, Milan Shah, Ranjani Sundar, Shelly Teng, Priya Trivedi, Wenhan Wang

**National Achievement Finalists:** Max Ackerman, Timothy Akintilo, Tahj Alli-Balogun, Yasmine Gordon, Quinn Lewis, Dayvon Snell, Kyle Thomas

**National Merit Finalists:** 41 seniors

**U.S. Presidential Scholars Competition Semifinalist:** Emily Mu

**American Invitational Mathematics Examination:** Jennifer Du, Max Kontorovich, Ka Wai Lee, Rohit Mahankali, Alexander Moreno, Emily Mu, Timothy Zhou

**Mathematics Team:** 4th in State - Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contest:  
Vikram Anjur, Andrew Kazenas, Ka Wai Lee, Emily Mu

**Moody's Mega Math Challenge 2015:** Honorable Mention – Jennifer Du, Ka Wai Lee, Emily Mu, Shelly Teng

**U.S. Mathematics Olympiad Qualifier:** Emily Mu

**American Computer Science League Finalists:** Austin Cao, Ka Wai Lee

**High School Cyber Forensics Challenge Finalists:** Brendan Batliner, Eric Hennenfent, Nicholas Magerko, August Nagro, Jonathan Reynolds

**American Academy of Science Outstanding Achievement at the National Level in Scientific Research & Leadership:** Grace Duan, Omair Khan, Sanjay Kottapalli, Sameeksha Malhotra, Ranjani Sundar

**Illinois Junior Academy of Science Gold Medal Winners:** Aishwarya Raj, Rashmi Thimmapuram

**Scholastic Bowl Team:** 4th in State – 1st Masonic State Championship, Waleed Ali, Dan Pechi, Andrew Salij

**Science Olympiad Team Member:** 2nd in State, Astronomy – Alan Yang

**Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Regional Finalist:** Janani Sivakumar

**Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Semifinalists:** Emily Mu, Bhairvi Shah, Janani Sivakumar, Shelly Teng

**National History Bee Semifinalist:** Andrew Salij

**National Security Language Initiative Youth Scholarships for Russian:** Natasha Freund, Emma Sloan

**National YoungArts Foundation 2015 Winner:** Timothy Zhou - Instrumental music/piano

**Illinois Future Business Leaders of America National Qualifiers:** Waleed Ali, Jennifer Du, Abrar Khaja, Emily Mu, Dawson Patel, Shveta Thakkar, Sneha Thakkar, Priya Trivedi, Guna Yerrabolu

**Illinois Future Problem Solving Competition:** 2nd Place Orals Competition, Greeshma Chilukuri  
5th Place Written Competition, Leehwa Hong, Vivian Jin, Haneesha Paruchuri

**Illinois High School Association:** 5th in State, Vinesh Kannan – Impromptu Speaking

**Illinois High School Association State Solo Ensemble Contest:** 1st Place, Piano Performance – Daniel Collins

**Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Competition:** All State Choir – Luke Musgrave, Dennis Rich  
All State Composition – Daniel Collins; All State Orchestra, Janani Sivakumar

**John H. McEachern, Jr. Exemplary Service Travel Scholarship Recipients:** Raven Jackson, Katie Slowikowski

**Knight Family IMSA Scholarship Winner:** Ka Wai Lee

**The Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program Winner:** Vikram Anjur

**National German Exam Winners:** Eric Barrientos, Marissa Brock, Daniel Collins, Sattvic Ray, Yiqiao Wu, Guna Yerrabolu

**National Lauréat French Winners:** Daniel Pechi, Katie Slowikowski, Ziang Wang

**National Russian Essay Contest Winners:** Gold - Timothy Akintilo, Molly Fane, Natasha Freund, Nicholas Kiene, Braden Lauder, Vivian Liu, Nicholas Magerko, Rohit Mahankali, Matthew Moranz, Julian Pacheco, Daniel Pechi, Nathan Sutphen; Silver - Yasmine Gordon, Lohitha Guntupalli, Omar Hafiz, Derek Lubecke, Emma Sloan, Rajiv Trehan

**National Spanish Exam Winner:** Omair Khan

# The World Has Taken Notice of IMSA's Achievements

This year, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) continued to demonstrate leadership in STEM teaching, learning and talent development throughout Illinois and around the world. This graduating class and all of our students also distinguished themselves in true IMSA fashion.

An IMSA Sophomore was one of only 15 Global Finalists selected from the thousands of entrants to the 2014 Google Science Fair. Seven IMSA seniors have qualified as semifinalists in the 2015 National Achievement® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for African-American high school students. Two IMSA students were Illinois' Regional Finalists in the 2014 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology.

An IMSA Sophomore placed third in the Guts round of the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament, along with teammates from the University of Chicago Lab School. The American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) named an IMSA Junior an ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate for 2014, an honor given to the 30 most outstanding Russian students of 2014. Five IMSA students had their original research recognized at the 2015 American Academy of Science (AAS) Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA, earning prestigious honors for their impressive work.

IMSA named its new innovation center the IN2 Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry. The 6400 square foot, open space design lab, partly modeled after the digital co-op 1871 in Chicago, is slated to be completed by spring of 2016.

In the workforce, IMSA alumni use their scientific minds to creatively solve global issues and advance the human condition. They are doctors leading breakthroughs in neurological disorders and cancer treatments. They are scientists at national laboratories. They are leaders in education at Harvard, MIT, the University of Illinois and other prestigious universities. They are technology experts at Facebook, Google, and Microsoft. They are business leaders and engineers at Boeing Company, Motorola, the New York Stock Exchange, Nissan, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Shell Oil. They are entrepreneurs and co-founders of Netscape, PayPal, Yelp, and YouTube.

In 2014-15, Professional Field Services (PFS) has continued to build programming and community capacity through face-to-face and online learning opportunities for students and teachers across Illinois. This year PFS expanded the IMSA Allies program to two Chicago locations. This STEM-focused leadership program allows high schools students, both at IMSA and at partner locations, to develop leadership and STEM skills as they provide STEM learning opportunities for younger students. In addition, PFS expanded IMSA Fusion to reach 3500 students at 135 partner schools across Illinois.

This year, the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, due to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, corporate and foundation partners, has reached an all-time giving record of \$3 million in gifts and pledges. Grateful alumni and parents are showing their support through annual donations and "giving back" to IMSA at record levels. The IMSA Fund board of directors also launched the STEM Business Network, which brings IMSA and select businesses together to elevate STEM education, talent, and opportunities throughout Illinois.

## Historical Fast Facts:

- IMSA was named the winner of the prestigious Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award in 2009.
- The Wall Street Journal named IMSA among the top 40 public and private college preparatory institutions in the world for placing graduates in the U.S. Ivy League and highly selective colleges and universities.
- IMSA alumni receive numerous academic, research and leadership awards, including Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation, Rhodes, Truman and Siebel Scholarships.
- Educators visit from many countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, Mexico, Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, and South Africa.

Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good. The Class of 2015 demonstrated this commitment by completing over 58,100 hours of service learning in a variety of ways. Organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Exodus, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, ALS Association, and numerous schools, libraries, and museums have all reaped the benefits. The National Volunteer Value estimates that one volunteer hour is worth about \$23 to an organization. Therefore, the time and effort that the Class of 2015 dedicated to their communities equates to over \$1,300,000 of value in labor alone, allowing these organizations to better fulfill their goals of aiding those in need. While every IMSA student must complete a minimum of 200 hours of service learning in order to graduate, some students have gone above and beyond. Special recognition goes to the following students who have earned over 750 service learning hours: Nicole Aldridge- 760.25, Grace Duan- 804.5 hours, Karin Han- 787 hours, Alyda Huerta- 786.75 hours, Laura Lehmann - 776 hours, Haneesha Paruchuri- 899 hours, Priya Trivedi- 954 hours, and Amanda Walsh- 949 hours. Thank you for your dedication!



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