

field *of* dreams

examples of IMSA Central and
Southern Illinois Graduates



foreword

The vignettes and short snapshots in this booklet give the reader just a hint of the richness and diversity of experiences of IMSA alumni from Central and Southern Illinois. Space precludes telling so many other stories, of how horizons broadened as students accepted the opportunities at IMSA.

Thank you to Series Editor Cathy Veal, Vice President for Advancement, whose vision brought these booklets to life. Jean Bigger of IMSA's Furnas Information Resource Center (IRC) created the title, design concepts, and the montage. She and Angela Richardson of the IRC gave invaluable ongoing counsel. Many thanks also to Jerre Henriksen, Juan Bustamante and Jill Mosshamer of the Office of Advancement; Keith McIntosh of Student Life; Principal Eric McLaren; Dr. LuAnn Smith and Joe Prieto of College and Academic Counseling; and Dr. Steve Cordogan and Jay Thomas of the Office of Research and Evaluation. Irene Norton of the Instructional Technology Laboratory/Toyota Video Production Laboratory contributed nature photography symbolic of Illinois' woods and fields.

Sources of information include alumni surveys, personal communications, visits, phone and email interviews, and records in the IMSA Archives.

As ever, it is a pleasure to work with IMSA's alumni, hear their reflections about how IMSA helped them become who they are today, share their joy as they marry and start their families, and recognize their academic, professional and service contributions.

*Marti Guarin, Editor
IMSA Charter Librarian and Archivist
April 2002*

*Nature photography by Irene Norton, Instructional Technology Technician, IMSA
Cover photo of Aimee Chong '94 by C. Moore
Cover photo of Scott Gaudi '91 by Marti Guarin*

dear IMSA shareholder



It is my pleasure to share with you the third in a series of Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy alumni profile booklets. Previous editions have featured some of our women graduates and some of our African American and Latino graduates. In this edition we proudly showcase some of our distinguished graduates from central and southern Illinois.

Unfortunately, because IMSA is located in Aurora in northern Illinois, some people still believe that only students from Chicago and its suburbs attend IMSA. This is not the case. Since we opened in 1986, many outstanding students from central and southern Illinois have attended IMSA, excelling in academic, cocurricular and leadership activities, and as you will see in the enclosed vignettes and snapshots, they have continued their impressive accomplishments in college and in their early career and civic commitments.

In 1985, the Illinois General Assembly established IMSA and charged it with two responsibilities: to offer a uniquely challenging education for students talented in mathematics and science; and to stimulate further excellence for all Illinois schools in the areas of science and mathematics. Each year, our residential academic program enrolls approximately 650 students from all areas of Illinois. The diversity of our student body is, in fact, one of our greatest strengths.

Through the years, some of our most impressive young scholars and leaders have come from the cities, small towns, and rural and farming communities of central and southern Illinois. We are and remain deeply committed to identifying, recruiting and enrolling students from these areas of our state who need and would benefit from the IMSA opportunity.

In this booklet, we are proud to introduce you to some of our distinguished graduates from Utica, Carbondale, Macomb, Armington, East St. Louis, Waterloo, Redbud, Springfield, Anna, Greenfield, Effingham and other communities. I hope you enjoy reading their stories, and I invite you to join us as advocates and partners in developing and nurturing talent in all its remarkable forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Pace Marshall".

Stephanie Pace Marshall, Ph.D.
President

Field of Dreams



Montage by Jean Bigger

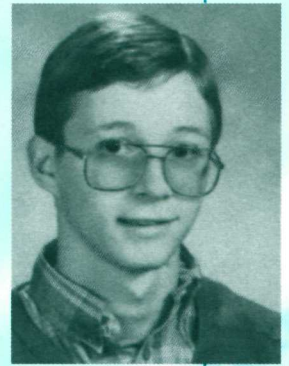
Anthony Stuckey

Montrose, Cumberland County

Tony Stuckey '89 is system administrator for intrusion detection at Argonne National Laboratory. Previously he was supervisor of the email system with 30,000 users at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a research programmer.

Stuckey earned a BS in computer science at the U of I in 1993, aided by a Cumberland County scholarship. He says, "I'm not sure I would have graduated from college without the IMSA experience, which made me much more comfortable than I would have been, with academic challenge and life away from home. IMSA enabled me to take a much higher sequence of math courses than I could have otherwise." A peak experience his junior year at IMSA was competing in the National Tournament of Academic Excellence at Disneyworld in Florida.

His hobbies include biking, underwater hockey, snorkeling and deep sea diving. Says Stuckey, "IMSA provides a continuing social group of motivated, diverse, exciting people doing research and life activities in depth, starting companies, doing politics; the IMSA group is an involved, vibrant, 'go-out-and-get-em' kind of people."



Jill Howk Gengler

Melvin, Ford County

Jill Howk Gengler '89 earned a BA in the teaching of social studies and an MS in library and information science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the coordinator for the LEEP Distance Education Program of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University. At her graduation, the faculty of the GSLIS gave her a Faculty Special Award for service above and beyond the duties of a graduate assistant.

A high point for Gengler is her mentoring of new students in the GSLIS program and seeing them become successful professionally. She expands her abilities in librarianship through her skills as a teacher, combining two things she really enjoys.

Gengler says IMSA gave her the confidence to go to the #1 library school in the nation and succeed. "IMSA gave me so much, it can never be repaid. IMSA gave me the chance to see the suburbs and realize I love central Illinois. IMSA changed my life and I want the State of Illinois to continue supporting it."

Active professionally, Gengler presents at state and national library association conferences. She also has volunteered with animal shelters and the Humane Society.



David Kung

Carbondale, Jackson County

Dave Kung '89 is a New Media agent with Creative Artists Agency (CAA), a literary and talent agency based in Beverly Hills, CA. In addition to servicing the agency's core talent and technology clients in New Media projects, Kung directs the CAA Media Lab, where he showcases new technologies to the creative community.

Kung previously worked at Walt Disney Imagineering Research and Development where he pioneered Disney/ABC's efforts in interactive television developing programs for *Monday Night Football*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* and other shows. Says Kung, "I'm still bridging the humanities and technology, as we did at IMSA, being an interpreter between technology and the creative process."

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Kung earned a BS in architecture and an MS in media arts and sciences, with a thesis in "Computer Orchestrated Asynchronous Sound & Picture Editing." He received a full scholarship for his graduate study at MIT's Media Lab. Says Kung, "The best preparation IMSA gave me wasn't what to know, but how to think. The cross-disciplinary approach to learning had the biggest impact on me."

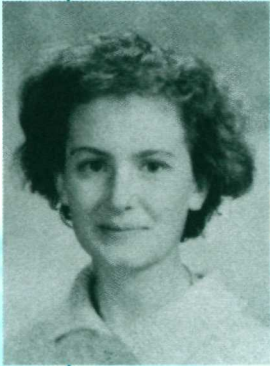


David Kung



Portia Blume-Gallegos

Utica, LaSalle County



Portia Blume-Gallegos '89 works for the U.S. Forest Service as an ecology monitor at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Previously she was volunteer coordinator. She won the Forest Service Volunteer Program Award for increasing the number of volunteer hours given in a year from 2,000 to 8,000.

Blume-Gallegos earned a BA in biology from Oberlin College, was awarded departmental honors in biology and was inducted into Sigma Xi, the science honor society. She also was national co-chair for Amnesty International. In addition, Blume-Gallegos had a grant for research in ethnobotany and lived in a small village in Ecuador.

"One of the best things about IMSA was the social life," says Blume-Gallegos. "Most everyone found a place where they were comfortable and happy and could develop their social skills with their peers, since we weren't pegged as the class geeks."

- **Mark Armantrout** '89 of Mattoon, Coles County, is a manager at Inforte nationwide technology consulting firm in Chicago. He received his MS in computer science at Indiana University in 1994, having earned his BS in Mathematics/Computer Science at the University of Illinois in three years, graduating in 1992. He says his IMSA German classes with John Stark prepared him well for an exchange summer in Germany.
- **Jodi Gottman Sacks** '89 of Champaign, Champaign County, is a staff nurse at the Nathan Edelson Hospice in Las Vegas, Nevada. She has served her country as staff nurse at USAF bases in Iceland, Okinawa and Korea. She earned her BS in Nursing at Milliken University, where she was won the R.H.Cleveland Award as Outstanding Senior Nursing Student.
- **Dr. Mehmet Guler** '89 of Anna, Union County, completed a PhD/MD from Washington University in St. Louis. He is pursuing a residency in immunology/pathology at Johns Hopkins University. He still stays in close touch with his IMSA host family in Aurora.
- **Andy Oh** '89 of Springfield completed his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Oh works for J.P. Morgan in New York City in equity research, with a focus on health care stocks. "My IMSA education helped build my problem-solving skills, my entrepreneurial spirit and my interest in continuous learning," says Oh. He also was the first IMSA graduate to serve on the board of directors of the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education.
- **Lt. Jeffrey Truitt** '89 of Marion, Williamson County, holds a Juris Doctor from The University of Chicago. He is stationed at the Naval Base in Jacksonville, FL. He holds an MA from the University of Maryland in political science. He also earned a commission as Ensign and a BS in political science from the US Naval Academy.

Brad Balster

Marion, Williamson County



Brad Balster '90 is a systems consultant at Hewitt Associates LLC in Lincolnshire. Hewitt Associates LLC is a global management consulting firm specializing in human resource solutions. Balster graduated from the University of Illinois in 1995 with a BS in business administration.

Balster volunteers as president of the Employee Resource Group for the 11,000 employees worldwide, working on diversity issues and organizing conferences. He sees the group as a safe place for collaboration, and says, "The more varied perspectives, the better the solution." Embracing diversity, Balster believes, means employees do not have to "check" a part of themselves at the workplace door.

Balster wanted to work in Illinois, and has traveled the world extensively. "IMSA was one of the best experiences of my life. I'm proud of and loyal to IMSA. It was exactly the place for me to be. With all the different areas, I thrived and soaked it up like a sponge," he says.

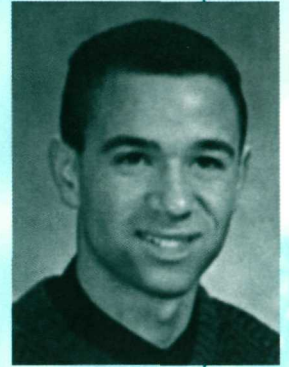
Matthew McLean, MD

Macomb, McDonough County

Dr. Matthew McLean '90 is specializing in orthopedics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He is in the fourth year of five, anticipating graduation in 2003, and board certification a year after that. He graduated from Cornell University with a BA in biological sciences in 1994. He then earned his MD at Washington University in 1998.

"Before I went to IMSA, I did well in athletics and academics," says McLean. "I made the decision to focus on my future by going to IMSA." IMSA taught him to study and focus on academics, prepared him for college and opened doors for the future. IMSA helped him define higher goals and he found others with the same ambitions. He also was IHSA Class A state champion in boys track and field in the 110 meter high hurdles, setting an IHSA record.

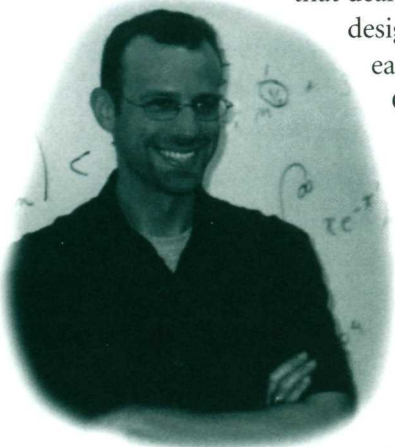
Says McLean of his choice to pursue years of medical training, "It's rewarding to help people."



Jason Ribando, PhD

Peoria, Peoria County

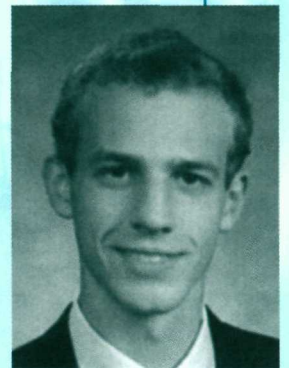
Dr. Jason Ribando '90 is assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. His teaching focus is in geometry and combinatorics, that part of mathematics that deals with counting, and more generally with discrete structures. He designed a course in combinatorics which debuted last summer. Ribando earned his PhD and MA in mathematics from the University of California at San Diego. His BS in mathematics is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was awarded a three year GAANN Fellowship by the U.S. Department of Education for his graduate work.



Dr. Jason Ribando

Says Ribando, "My IMSA education really helped me. I could take two math courses every semester. Math teachers Sue Eddins, Chuck Hamberg and Gill Choi were a big influence." His first professional publication titled "Problem-Solving with Ceva" was written while at IMSA and published in the *Illinois Mathematics Teacher*.

Ribando cycles more than 3,500 miles a year and completed the Big Bear Century, riding 100 miles in a day with a 10,000 foot climb.



- **John Bozarth** '90 of Decatur, Macon County, works for AmerenCIPS in Macomb as a gas engineer. He earned a BS in General Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Bozarth says, "What I do helps empower others to do their work better." He continues, "The positive environment at IMSA had expectations of success and so you could succeed."

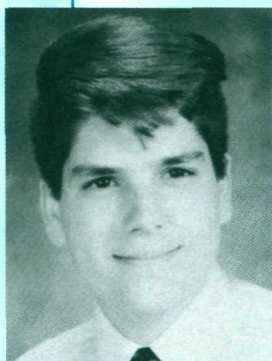
- **Jonathan Hayes** '90 of Mt. Zion, Macon County, designs and manages data communications systems for Integrated Computer Services in Northbrook. Hayes earned a BS in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- **Dr. Amy Nopachai** '90 of Centralia, Marion County, is finishing her residency in internal medicine/pediatrics at the University of North Carolina Hospitals. She earned an MD at Southern Illinois University and a BA in biology from Carleton College.

- **Dr. Andrea Stonecipher** '90, of Rochester, Sangamon County, teaches medical terminology at Lincolnland Community College. Previously she was a medical officer at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. She earned an MD and a BA in biological (life) science from Washington University.

- **Dr. Joseph Turek** '90 of Petersburg, Menard County is pursuing five years of general surgery and two years of adult heart surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago to become a pediatric surgeon, specializing in repairing newborns' hearts. He was awarded an MD, as well as a PhD in pharmacology, from UIC in 2001. Turek earned his BA in biochemistry from Northwestern University in 1994. He studied in Paris six months as a Chateaubriand Research Fellow.

Scott Gaudi, PhD
Staunton, Macoupin County



Dr. B. Scott Gaudi '91 (*pictured on cover*) is at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University as a post-doctoral researcher on a prestigious Hubble Fellowship. Dr. Gaudi was profiled in the October 2000 Discover magazine in an article on "Twenty Scientists to Watch in the next Twenty Years." Dr. Gaudi became hooked on astronomy in the second grade when he memorized the names of all the planets in our solar system. Today, at the Institute for Advanced Study, Gaudi has many more names to memorize as he searches for planets outside our solar system. Gaudi theorizes that the key to finding smaller planets is to watch for admittedly rare events, like the transit of a small planet across a star, or the bending of light, called gravitational lensing, that occurs when a star and its orbiting planet cross in front of a more distant star.

When he won the Hubble Fellowship, says Dr. Gaudi, "My world sort of stopped." He also won the Ohio State University Presidential Fellowship and other awards. He has numerous publications to his credit.

Dr. Gaudi says his IMSA education helped him "think outside the box". Besides science, he enjoyed English, reading and discussing literature. IMSA was like college, but "immersed in academics, condensed with less extraneous matters, more innocent."

Lynn Roth Ginter
Armington, Tazewell County



Lynn Roth Ginter '91 is a manufacturing engineer with Eaton Corporation's Cutler-Hammer Manufacturing Engineering Division in Lincoln, IL. Her work involves building and producing electrical boxes; formerly she was responsible for design and testing. Her previous engineering work was with the Boeing Company in Seattle on components for the Joint Strike Fighter.

Ginter earned a BS in mechanical engineering from Bradley University in 1996, with scholarships from John Deere & Company, the Boeing Company, Bradley University, and the Royal Neighbors of America. She currently is pursuing an MS in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington, and will graduate in summer 2002.

Asked if her IMSA education helped her, Ginter replied, "Definitely—I'm an engineer!" She continues, "I fell in love with physics at IMSA. I took nine semesters, including experimental physics, and all the calculus courses." The cross-disciplinary teaching at IMSA helps her today to relate different aspects of her work, such as accounting and engineering. Because of requirements in all disciplines, Ginter thinks going to a mathematics and science school actually made her well-rounded. IMSA also was a good place to find friendships and learn social skills, says Ginter.

- **Christopher "Kit" Condill** '91 of Arthur, Moultrie County, is contributing to Illinois biodiversity on his family farm, researching, preserving, isolating and developing new varieties of cucurbitaceae, or pumpkins, gourds and squashes, growing over 250 varieties including exotics and heirlooms. Condill earned a BA in history at Carleton College.



Dr. Joseph Turek

• **Dr. Andy Hocker** '91 of Canton, Fulton County, is a research fellow at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. He earned a PhD in physics from The University of Chicago in 2000 and a BA in physics from Rice University.

His PhD work was supported by the Enrico Fermi Institute's Nathan Sugarman Fellowship.

• **Juli Moticka** '91 of Riverton, Sangamon County, works at Amgen in Boulder, CO, as a research associate II. She earned a BA in health and human services from Rutgers University and an MA in immunology from the University of Colorado.

• **Dr. Frank Simutis** '91 of Watseka, Iroquois County, is pursuing a PhD in veterinary pathology at Iowa State University, and will graduate in 2003. He completed his DVM and a BS in biological (life) science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His wife **Katy Kobyluk** '93 of Creal Springs, Williamson County, holds a BS in physiology from UIUC.

Chelsy Hopper

Springfield, Sangamon County

Chelsy Hopper '92 is a project manager at Zurich Scudder Investments, Inc., in Chicago. She leads project teams for systems work in Chicago and other cities. She works with the matching gifts program, which matches employee donations to a comparable donation from the employee's company. She enjoys the fast pace and widespread applications of computer science.

Hopper earned a BA in computer science at Knox College in 1996. At Knox she was awarded the Muelder Scholarship.

Says Hopper, "Even more than academics, being in the IMSA environment and with people who were closer to being peers than at my home high school shaped who I am."

A memorable experience was living downtown in the Chicago when Hopper first began work in the city. Now she plans to buy a house in the suburbs, and stay with the job she enjoys and her cats, cooking and reading.



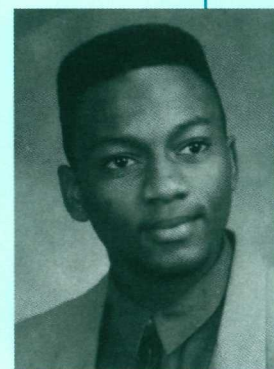
Terez Ivy

East St. Louis, St. Clair

Terez Ivy '92 works as an engineering technician for Butler Manufacturing Co. in Galesburg, the world's largest manufacturer of pre-engineered buildings. He ensures buildings meet standards, checks specifications and works with builders and clients. Ivy also does contractual web design and consulting for MDI in East St. Louis.

Ivy graduated with a BS in physics from Knox College in 1997. He saw engineering work close-up in an internship at Fleming Co. in St. Louis. He does ongoing coursework in computer science to strengthen his web work. Future plans include a business venture with MDI.

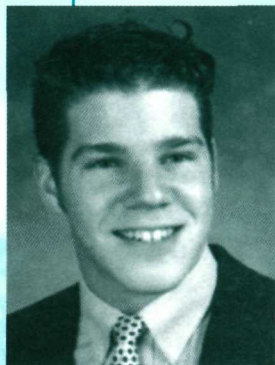
Ivy says IMSA prepared him with rigorous academics and gave a jumpstart on insight into different kinds of people and cultures. On the IMSA experience, he says, "You really don't know exactly what you have while you're there. You leave and miss the quality of people you're around."



Terez Ivy

David Wochner

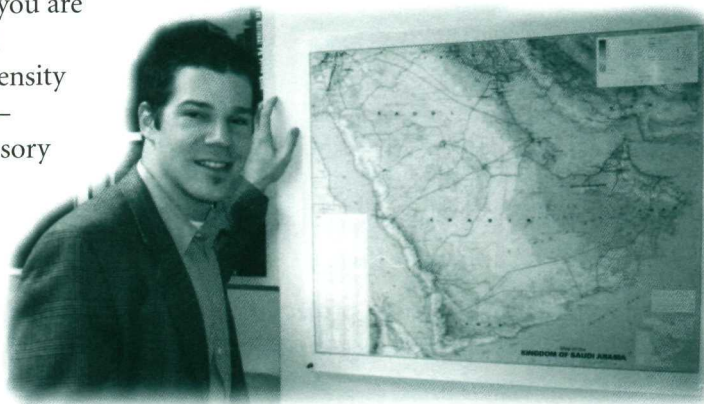
Bloomington, McLean County



David Wochner '92 works as a research analyst for the law firm LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, Inc., in Washington, DC. His special area is the Middle East. He also is in his third year of law school at Georgetown University and will graduate in 2002.

Wochner earned a BSFS from Georgetown University in foreign service, with a concentration in Arab studies. A high point was spending his junior year in the Middle East, one semester in Cairo, Egypt and one in Jerusalem, Israel. "Whether you are religious or not," says Wochner, "the historical significance is profound, to experience the intensity of history. Jerusalem is a city of dichotomies—ethnicities, peace vs. violence. It's almost a sensory overload, with sights, sounds and smells."

In Wochner's view, IMSA teaches students to mentally process on a different level than even what one experiences in college. He says IMSA encourages students to be able to integrate different aspects of their lives, with mental, social and physical coming together. He adds, "IMSA prepares you so well for the coming attractions."



David Wochner

- **Dr. Punita Gupta** '92 of Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County, earned her MD from the University of Illinois Medical School at Peoria. She interned at Evanston Hospital and is specializing in radiology at New England Medical Center in Boston. Gupta graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1995 with a BA in biology and from St. Louis University in 1996 with an MS in public health.
- **Taji Perry** '92 of East St. Louis graduated with a BA in psychology from Morehouse University. He is the manager of the pharmaceutical computer help desk at Synavant Information Management Solutions, Inc., in Atlanta, GA.
- **John Turlais** '92 of Flora, Clay County, is pursuing his LLD at Yale Law School. He earned a BA in government, magna cum laude, from Harvard University. He attended Harvard in the fall and played baseball in the spring in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. He co-authored *The Harvard Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting Your Own Small Business*, and co-founded ProjectLearn, an educational company targeting rural high school students with practical information and strategies.
- **Katherine Ashford** '93 of East St. Louis is a systems engineer at TALX Corporation in St. Louis. She won the Exceptional Performer of the Year Award in 1999. She holds a BS in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, which she attended on a merit-based Powers-Knapp scholarship.
- **Leah Berman** '93 of Springfield earned a BA with a double major, in mathematics and in philosophy, from Lewis and Clark College. She is completing work on her PhD in mathematics at the University of Washington and plans to work teaching mathematics at the post-secondary level.
- **Amanda King Potocky** '93 of Carbondale, Jackson County, earned a BS in a double major in mathematics and physics at Wake Forest University and is pursuing an MS in biomedical engineering at Marquette. She researches at Quintiles, the largest contract research organization in the world.
- **Dr. Shelley Minteer** '93 of Aledo, Mercer County, is an assistant professor of chemistry at St. Louis University. She earned a PhD in chemistry from the University of Iowa in 2000 and a BS in chemistry from Western Illinois University in 1995. Her research involves processes to decrease power demand and cost of chemical production. She holds a patent for fuel cell modification.

Aimee Chong

Carbondale, Jackson County

Aimee Chong '94 (pictured on cover) earned a MS in civil engineering in transportation from the University of California at Berkeley and a BS in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She works as a senior analyst at Cambridge Systematics in Chicago. Formerly she was with Parsons Transportation Group.



Awarded a scholarship from the Society of Women Engineers, Chong graduated with honors from Illinois. She was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, and a special award enabled her to do research as an undergraduate.

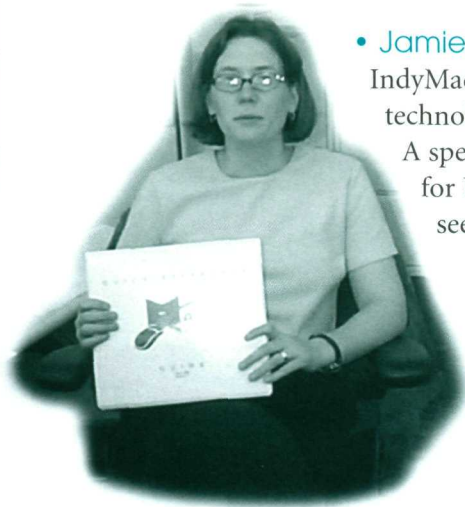
Chong became a city planner because it is so aligned with the integrated learning philosophy at IMSA, integrating diverse disciplines such as socioeconomics, demographics and engineering. For example, when a new highway is proposed, who is impacted? Who benefits? Says Chong, "IMSA helped me understand the importance of a community, key in transportation planning. IMSA creates an environment that challenges you to approach problem-solving on a personal level." Her curiosity was piqued in her economics, mathematics and science classes at IMSA, seeing how technical skills affect people's lives.

In graduate school, Chong volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and as a college counselor for high school students. She says, "My high point was moving back to Chicago, being close to people I love and care for, family and so many IMSA friends."

- **Shailushi Baxi** '94 of Streator, LaSalle County, earned a BA from Illinois Wesleyan University in biology and philosophy in 1998, and an MPH from the University of Michigan in 2000. She is Program Coordinator at Prevention Institute in Oakland, CA, an organization that consults in public policy and health. Baxi leads a project in violence prevention, improving communication between government agencies for cooperative effort.
- **Eric Johnson** '94 of Danville, Vermilion County, is an electrical engineer with Advanced Communications Design in Bloomington, MN. He is responsible for all phases of new product development from start to finish, including design, materials purchasing, board layout, debugging and implementation. He earned his EE from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1998. He is returning to graduate school. Johnson volunteers with several theater groups.
- **Jocelyn Logan** '94 of Marion, Williamson County, is in her third year of medical school at Northwestern University, specializing in general surgery. She earned a BA in biology from Earlham College. She then worked with the Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, India, founded by Mother Teresa, and also volunteered at mission hospitals in several African countries.
- **Cory Randolph Patton** '94 of Fairview Heights, St. Clair County, is a benefit coordinator for the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Atlanta. She earned a BA in Mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis. She believes her IMSA education helped her be better prepared for college.

- **Jamie Pflasterer** '94 of Waterloo, Monroe County, works for an internet lender, IndyMac Bank, in Pasadena, CA, as quality assurance manager for their e-MITS technology. Pflasterer earned her BS in civil engineering at the University of Oklahoma. A special experience was being invited to the University of Alaska's Research Experience for Undergraduates in the summer of 1996, camping north of the Arctic Circle, seeing bears, wolves and other wildlife.

Jamie Pflasterer



- **Karen Rakers** '94 of Aledo, Mercer County, is in medical school at St. Louis University, planning to graduate in 2002. She wants to work in either family medicine or pediatrics in the Midwest. She was chosen for the Pre-Medical Scholars Program at St. Louis University and earned a BS in biology. She volunteers with the Medical Students Clinic in North St. Louis, which focuses on outreach to underserved areas.
- **Chulee Santilukka** '94 of Redbud, Randolph County, is a pharmacist at Walgreen's in Middleton, WI, with a BS in pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Santilukka found presentation of course material at IMSA more challenging than in college. "My field is science so IMSA was really applicable," she says. "Science was a tangent. I was a mathematics person and flip-flopped into science in college."
- **Jacob Weber** '94 of Smithton, St. Clair County, is a financial analyst for AON Corp. He models financial risk for their corporate clients and insurance companies. He earned a Diploma in Economics from the London School of Economics in 1999, after his 1998 BA in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Weber values the open-ended nature of the IMSA experience and the opportunities available.

LTjg Pamela Rawe, USN

Jerseyville, Jersey County



LTjg Pamela Rawe '95 is pursuing a year's course of study at the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC, to become a Reactor Officer of the Watch on aircraft carriers. She previously served as surface warfare officer on the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur, based in Japan, which she had requested for the experience she would gain.

Rawe completed her MS in mechanical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in December 1999. She earned a BS in mechanical engineering and a commission as Ensign from the US Naval Academy in June 1999. Upon graduation she chose assignment in the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. Rawe has been awarded several medals, including the Navy Achievement Medal.

Says Rawe, "Without IMSA I wouldn't have been able to go to the Naval Academy. I made the decision to live away from home and set up my life to try new things, not always knowing what's behind door number 2." She continues, "I'm still in touch with friends from IMSA, living vicariously through all the things they do."



Lt. Pamela Rawe

- **Jessica Droste** '95 of Dow, Jersey County, works for her father's millwork company in Dow, IL, as the business manager. She established a growth plan and set up new accounting procedures. Formerly she was a senior analyst for The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City in Boston. Droste graduated from Haverford College with a BA in public policy and economics, winning several scholarships.

- **Justin Etnyre** '95 of Martinsville, Clark County, is a business information analyst within the marketing department of consumer lending (HFC) for Household International in Prospect Heights. He is pursuing an MBA at Roosevelt University in Schaumburg, with a concentration in information management systems. He completed a double major in economics and international studies at Illinois Wesleyan University in 1999.

- **Vanessa Gage** '95 of Newton, Jasper County, is a project assistant with a group of architects at Urban Retail Properties, a real estate investment company in Chicago. She graduated with a BS in horticulture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and numerous scholarships.

- **Nicholas Rogers** '95, of Belleville, St. Clair County, is pursuing a PhD in mathematics at Harvard University, as well as teaching one semester a year. After receiving his degree, he plans to focus his energies on teaching, probably at a college rather than a research university.

Anjali Adukia

Mattoon, Coles County

Anjali Adukia '96 is the manager of volunteers at the Make-a-Wish Foundation in San Francisco, responsible for training, policies and procedures, as she develops how best to deploy their 450 volunteers. Previously she was at the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs, aiding women starting up hi-tech and biological companies.

Adukia earned a BS in biological (life) sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Among other honors, Adukia received the Procter & Gamble Excellence in Leadership Award, the Outstanding Senior in Service Award, the United Way Salute to Youth in Service Award and was named to the Senior 100 Honorary. She founded and chaired TEAM, Together Experiencing Appreciation of Multiculturalism. Adukia says, "Had it not been for the foundation I had at IMSA I wouldn't have accomplished what I did at the University of Illinois. IMSA really develops your conceptualization skills. I'm such a different person because of my IMSA education, considering ethical leadership and integrating my life."

Adukia continues, "I would never had gotten research experience without IMSA, so I looked for research in college. Mentorship is amazing. Dr. Peggy Connolly also found me an internship at Eastern Illinois University and a chance to present at a conference on 'Discovering Women,' where women scientists presented their research so young students could understand it."

- **Andrew Kim** '96 of Belleville, St. Clair County, graduated from The University of Chicago in 2000 with a triple major in anthropology, physics and economics. He now is working at the University for Professor James Heckman, winner of the 2000 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science.

- **Jacob Plummer** '96 of Shelbyville, Shelby County, is managing director and co-founder of MindUniversity Inc. The company's focus is on improving technological literacy for education, libraries and senior citizens. Plummer also teaches in the business division of Carl Sandburg Community College. Plummer graduated with a BA in Economics from Knox College in 2000, with a Trustees' Scholarship.



"I'm such a different person because of my IMSA education. The classes are great, very creative; it's amazing what you can explore. The discussion of ethical leadership helped integrate my life."

Anjali Adukia '96

• **Brian Sebbly** '96 of Streator, La Salle County, is a distributed computing administrator at Argonne National Laboratory. He earned a BS in computer science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sebbly is an active IMSA Alumni Association volunteer.

• **Randy Cofield** '97 of East St. Louis is majoring in Spanish at Middlebury College with minors in mathematics and African-American studies. He spent a semester at the Instituto Internacional in Madrid. He won the 2001 Public Service Leadership Award and donated the cash prize to IMSA for the benefit of an African-American male from East St. Louis. Says Cofield, "Never once did I doubt I would make it this far, although some people thought I couldn't as a black male."

• **Natasha Rodgers** '97 of East St. Louis graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a double major in Marketing and in Human Resource Management. She plays professional basketball in Sweden and plans to go on to law school. She credits her success to coach Keith McIntosh of IMSA.

• **Donald Ford** '98 of Brighton, Macoupin County, studies mathematics education at Eastern Illinois University. He also volunteers in Brighton as a mathematics tutor in the schools. He says the strong IMSA mathematics background helped free him to truly analyze the material in college.

• **Kristin Krukenberg** '98 of Charleston, Coles County, majors in chemistry at Rice University, and will continue in graduate school. She spent a semester abroad in Germany. IMSA's research programs enabled Krukenberg to undertake research at Rice. She also studies voice and was a member of the Texas Universities' Select Rugby Team.

• **Dilini Fernando** '99, of Effingham, Effingham County majors in public and private sector organization at Brown University. She also manages radio station WBRU, ranked third most popular in the New England market, and serves as DJ to over 100,000 listeners. Fernando says, attending IMSA was one of the best decisions she ever made. "I left IMSA with so many incredible experiences, friendships and memories. I'm very grateful for the student life programs, mentorships, the Ethics conference in Israel, and so many incredible resources at our fingertips."

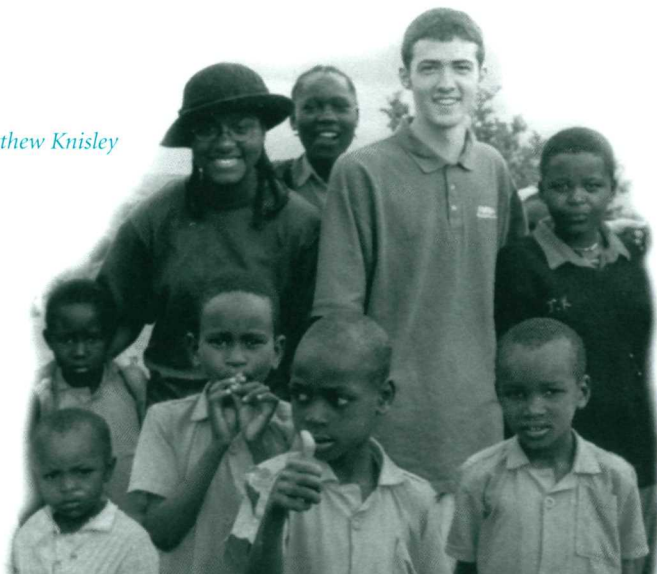
• **Katherine Tenhouse** '00 of Liberty, Adams County, majors in East Asian Languages and Cultures, with a focus on Japanese and minor in computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently she also writes software with a group of IMSA alumni and does some translating.

• **Matthew Knisley** '01 of Greenfield, Greene County, majors in International Studies and Anthropology at Washington University. In partnership with **Anitra Sumbry** '01, of Aurora, Kane County, they were co-facilitators for a leadership development program in Kenya in the summer of 2001, studying environment and interaction. Sumbry majors in biology at Emory University in Atlanta, planning to become an MD.



Dilini Fernando

Anitra Sumbry and Matthew Knisley



“IMSA’s a fabulous place! It has contributed a lot to the State. We are already seeing graduates evolve into leadership roles, and will see more in the next few years.”

*–Andrew Oh ‘89
Springfield*

“IMSA teaches you to process mentally on a different level than even what you experience in college. In most cases it forces you to be able to integrate different aspects of your life, a mental, social, physical coming together that most high schools just don’t have. IMSA prepares you so well for the coming attractions.”

*–David Wochner ‘92
Bloomington*

“IMSA is one of the best things that happened in my education. I enjoyed the IMSA environment, with a lot of people who wanted to learn and where it was socially acceptable to be inquisitive, ask difficult questions, look at things in a different way, and use my peers and people around me as a resource.”

*–Eric Johnson ‘94
Danville*

“My IMSA education was a whole new world for me, having lived in a small town all my life. I was being exposed to many different things. I appreciated that I could be in an environment when everyone is really good at everything and still have confidence in myself.”

*–Jessica Droste ‘95
Dow*



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