

COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLASS OF 2014

**Illinois Mathematics and
Science Academy[®]**

Saturday, May 31, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Paramount Theatre
Aurora, Illinois



PROGRAM

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	
<i>(Please rise as the graduates enter and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.)</i>	
Pledge of Allegiance	Anthony Marquez President, Student Council
Welcome – Reflections on This Day	Sunny Shah Member, Class of 2014
Reflections on IMSA	Gina Liu Member, Class of 2014
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Sheila MB Griffin Chairman, Board of Trustees
Commencement Address	Kathryn D. Sullivan PhD Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
Presentation of the Class of 2014	Branson D. Lawrence, Jr Principal
Acceptance of the Class of 2014	Catherine C. Veal President
Presentation of Diplomas and Medallions	Sheila MB Griffin Catherine C. Veal
Presentation of Candidates	Jennifer Kwon Member, Class of 2014
	Joseph Donermeyer Member, Class of 2014
Recessional	Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy IMSA Graduation Band
Graduation Marshals	Members, Class of 2015

Nicole Aldridge
Tim Gietl
Raven Jackson
Alexandra Johnson

Vinesh Kannan
Rodrigo Sanchez
Priya Trivedi
Ryan Yang

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

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 student won gold at the International Math Olympiad and another won first place in the U.S. Geography Olympiad. Students also won state championships in History, Speech, Academic Quiz, and Swimming.

An IMSA team of students was selected as finalists in the NASA Exploration Design Challenge (ECD) where they were asked to design shielding to protect a radiation detector on the upcoming Orion un-crewed mission. A student had a paper published in the *Singapore International Science Competition (SISC)* and presented the results. IMSA students won more gold medals than any other high school in the nation in the National Russian Essay Contest.

IMSA's leadership in entrepreneurship garnered a \$1 million gift by alumnus Steven Chen for a new Innovation Lab that when built will be 6,400 square feet featuring an open space design concept. The new space will be modeled in part after the highly successful digital co-op, 1871, in Chicago.

IMSA took a lead role in a groundbreaking research study, which examines the intermediate-term outcomes of STEM specialty schools for talented learners. The study, funded by the National Science Foundation and conducted by the American Psychological Association and the University of Virginia, produced some results that affirm IMSA's ability to incubate students' interest in STEM.

CoolHub introduced its Mentor Matching Engine (MME), further customizing the web application adding a structure of supervised collaboration. Another partner emerged in the Illinois Science and Technology Institute (ISTI) who has chosen CoolHub as the platform for the e-mentorship initiative of the State's R&D STEM Learning Exchange.

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 the Boeing Company, McDonald's Corporation, 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 2013-14, Professional Field Services (PFS) continues to build programming and community capacity through field offices and online offerings. Serving thousands of students, teachers and other educators, PFS provides dozens of offerings advancing STEM education throughout Illinois and the world. This year PFS introduced the RISE (Research, Inquiry Skills & Experimentation) online course. RISE students have the opportunity to present their research findings at regional, state and national venues. This year, they received many honors for their research; two advanced to the national stage through invitations to the 2014 Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) National Symposium in Washington DC and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Propulsion Energy Forum 2014.

In the media, IMSA achieved great recognition for its programs with a comprehensive article in *Education Week* "STEM Academy's Reach Spans Illinois," and a feature story in *Wired* magazine "Hogwarts for Hackers."

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 \$2.3 million in gifts and pledges. In addition, the participation rate of giving by alumni, parents, and employees also reached all-time records. Finally, the IMSA Fund Board of Directors tripled in size to almost 30 distinguished members representing diverse facets of the business and philanthropic community.

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 and Thailand.

IMSA CLASS OF 2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

The numerous accomplishments of the Class of 2014 are too vast for listing individually. The following snapshot of this past year (as of May 7, 2014) does capture many of our Seniors' remarkable achievements. Other well-deserving students were awarded honors and recognitions from a wide array of institutions that represent local, state and national organizations in the arts, humanities, athletics, mathematics and science.

National Advanced Placement Scholars: Matthew Deng, Emily Ling

Advanced Placement Scholars With Distinction: Ashok Arjunakani, Ryan Chiu, John Deng, Matthew Deng, Kent Gang, Siva Gangavarapu, Kevin He, Vandana Karan, Arthur Li, Xiaoyue Li, Emily Ling, Jenson Phung, Sagar Punhani, Sreyesh Satpathy, Vimig Socrates, Brennan Wakey, Johnny Wu

Advanced Placement Scholars With Honors: Prachi Aggarwal, Lael Costa, Vishrut Dixit, Shivani Goel, Youcef Hadjarab, Taylor Herr, Anton Karpovich, Andrew Kuznetsov, Evan Li, Kevin Li, Andrew Liang, James Tao, Tony Vadakumchery, Mateusz Wojtaszek

National Achievement Finalists: Isiah Butler, Joseph Donermeyer, Ciara Wardlow

National Merit Finalists: 41 seniors

American Invitational Mathematics Examination: 13 seniors qualified

International Math Olympiad Gold Medal Winner: James Tao

Harvard/MIT Invitational Math Tournament: 4th in Nation - James Tao

High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (HIMCM): Selected for Finalist Team – Advitheey Chelikani, Sagar Punhani

Mathematics Team: 2nd in State - Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Contest:

Advith Chelikani, Kevin He, Taylor Herr, Saurabh Kumar, Evan Li, Sagar Punhani, Abhishek Sethi

Illinois Junior Academy of Science Gold Medal Winners: Ashok Arjunakani, Philip Nebres

Scholastic Bowl Team: 1st in State - National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) Championship, IHSA State Championship, Masonic State Championship - Siva Gangavarapu, Anton Karpovich

Science Olympiad Team: 7th in State - Lael Costa, Annika Gomez, Jacob Kronenberg, Sagar Punhani, Abhishek Sethi

Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology Semifinalists: Srisha Kotlo, Lakhena Leang, Xueyang Ren, Sreyesh Satpathy

TEAMS - Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science Competition: 1st in State - Ethan Bian, Mohammed Kady

History Bowl Team: National Semifinalist, 1st in State - Anton Karpovich

NASA Exploration Design Challenge: Member of Top Five Finalist Team - Claire Hensley

National History Bee: 2nd in State - Anton Karpovich

US Geography Olympiad National Champion: Anton Karpovich

Illinois Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference:

1st Place, Business Communications - Gina Liu

1st Place, Insurance and Risk Management - Joseph Weinrich

Illinois Future Problem Solving Competition: 2nd Place Written Competition - Kent Gang, Woohyun Shin, Luke Zhan, Amy Zhu

Illinois High School Association (IHSA): 1st in State, Steven Tan - 100 Butterfly, 2nd in State, 100 Backstroke

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Solo Ensemble Contest: 2nd Place - Piano, Jeremy Tyszkiewicz

Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-State Competition & Festival:

Selected for Membership in All-State Honors Orchestra - Isheng Hou, Jenson Phung

John H. McEachern, Jr. Exemplary Service Travel Scholarship Recipients: Michele Kinama, Yvette Ramirez

Knight Family IMSA Scholarship Winner: Lia Vallina

IMSA believes that *belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good*. The class of 2014 demonstrated their commitment to common good by completing more than 65,600 hours of service learning in a variety of ways: tutoring, mentoring, teaching, volunteering in medical centers, senior citizen, youth centers, and food pantries, through the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Exodus, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, ALS Association, schools, libraries, and museums. Two hundred hours of service learning are required for graduation.

Special recognition to students who completed more than 750 hours: Alexis Currie- 1,380 hours, Brianna Pusey- 1230 hours, Nahee Park- 1010 hours, Dallas Eckman- 945 hours, Erma Mladenova- 937 hours, Jacob Akstins- 897 hours, Kevin Li- 840 hours, Anne Weitekamp- 798 hours, Lynette To- 785 hours, and Kayla Ingram- 777 hours.

- **Lydia Ann Abraham**
Coal City
- **Michael R. Adams**
Oak Park
- **Prachi Aggarwal**
Algonquin
- **Joshua-Paul O. Ajayi**
Chicago
- **Jacob Alexander Akstins**
Homer Glen
- **Simone Lubomirova Alexandrova**
Elmhurst
- **Charlene Mae Angeles**
Round Lake
- **Ashok Arjunakani**
Schaumburg
- **Martin Grigorov Bantchev**
Peoria
- **Rachel Emily Bergherm**
Westmont
- **Ethan Bian**
Bloomington
- **Lauren Nicole Burke**
Darien
- **Isiah Alexander Butler**
Chicago
- **Kirstyn Leigh Carlson**
West Chicago
- **Vivian Chau**
Des Plaines
- **Advithey Chelikani**
Palatine
- **Ryan Guan Chiu**
Grayslake
- **Lael S. Costa**
Evanston
- **Molly Elizabeth Cuka**
West Chicago
- **Alexis Delores Currie**
Aurora
- **John Zhongzhe Deng**
Springfield
- **Matthew Ping Deng**
Naperville
- **Evan Richard Derse**
Lisle
- **Vishrut J. Dixit**
Schaumburg
- **Joseph Alexander Donermeyer**
Homewood
- **Natalie Dong**
Bloomington
- **Elise Marie Douglas**
Rockford
- **Ryan Anthony Eberhardt**
Schaumburg
- **Dallas Scott Eckman**
Crystal Lake
- **Kristy W. Fang**
Carpentersville
- **Anastasia Veronica Fafara**
Mattoon
- **Erin Kathleen Ferriter**
Lockport
- **Marisol Flores**
Elgin
- **Kent Yeounik Gang**
Vernon Hills
- **Siva Kaushal Gangavarapu** ?
Naperville
- **Amanda Fu Gao**
Batavia
- **Al-Jalil Dameon Gault**
Chicago
- **Aaron Grant Geldner**
River Forest
- **Anthony Richard Gentile**
Sycamore
- **Jackson Read Gibbons**
Galena
- **Shivani Goel**
Hawthorn Woods
- **Nicholas S. Golinvaux**
New Lenox
- **Annika Gomez**
Elmhurst
- **Kieran Earley Groble**
Lake Zurich
- **Anna Gupta**
Aurora
- **Estefany Rios Guzman**
Berwyn
- **Youcef Farouk Hadjarab**
Naperville
- **Clarreesa Jeanette Hardin**
Lynwood
- **Matthew Robert Harms**
Ingleside
- **George Nicholson Harris**
Chicago
- **Stephanie Elizabeth Hatz**
North Barrington
- **Kevin He**
Glen Ellyn
- **Claire May Hensley**
Crystal Lake
- **Taylor James Herr**
Naperville
- **Kourtney Jaie Hodges**
Park Forest
- **Jennifer Marilyn Hoelzer**
Paw Paw
- **Isheng Hou**
Carbondale
- **Jonathan Hu**
Naperville
- **Nathan Russell Huxtable**
Batavia
- **Kayla Seymone Ingram**
Country Club Hills
- **Shreya Jain**
Gurnee
- **Elijah Jimenez**
Springfield
- **Alexander Joseph Johnson**
Woodridge
- **Mohamed Ryan Kady**
Rockford
- **Vandana Karan**
Naperville
- **Anton Karpovich** ?
Palatine
- **Omkar Uday Kelkar**
Vernon Hills
- **Sun Joong Kim**
Cary
- **Taeyoung Kim**
Peoria
- **Michele Mwongeli Kinama**
Gurnee
- **Ujwal Kiran**
Aurora
- **Pirapat Perry Kitipongpatana**
Bolingbrook
- **Rebecca Lynn Kleina**
Alsip
- **Taylor Morgan Knopf**
Aurora
- **Steven Louis Kosvick**
Bolingbrook
- **Srisha R. Kotlo**
Naperville
- **Milosz Jerzy Kowal**
Bartlett
- **Samuel Elliot Krause**
West Dundee
- **Jacob Bradley Kronenberg**
Evanston
- **Anna Kathy Kryczka**
Arlington Heights
- **Anna Alicja Krzywiec**
Palos Heights
- **Kristen Patricia Ksepka**
Woodstock
- **Saurabh Kumar**
Palatine
- **Andrew D. Kuznetsov**
Aurora
- **Maria Kuznetsov**
Aurora
- **Jiwon Kwak**
Palatine
- **Jennifer Hyeun Kwon** ?
Naperville
- **Carissa Mindi Lao**
Lisle
- **Lakhena Leang**
DeKalb
- **Hankyul Lee**
Kildeer
- **Jessica Xian Ling Lee**
DeKalb
- **Mack Lee**
Long Grove
- **Ryan Scott Leemans**
Port Byron
- **Sophie Christine Legan**
Riverside
- **Arthur Guizhe Li**
Naperville
- **Evan H. Li**
Naperville
- **Kevin Li**
Hoffman Estates
- **Xiaoyue Judy Li**
Carbondale
- **Andrew Liang**
Aurora
- **Emily Ling**
Naperville
- **David Alexander Lisk**
Caledonia
- **Gina Liu**
Charleston
- **Aranza A. Maldonado**
Plano
- **Kristen Loren Mancini**
Geneva
- **Earl Justin S. Mangulabnan**
West Chicago
- **Anthony John Flores Marquez**
Plainfield
- **Karla S. Marszalik**
Villa Park
- **Marco Antonio Medina**
Lockport
- **Anna Elisabeth Melberg**
Lindenhurst
- **Cristina Xochiketzel Menchaca**
Brookfield
- **Erma Mladenova Mladenova**
Gurnee
- **Jessica Rose Monigal**
Oak Lawn
- **Valerie Anne Moore**
Chicago
- **Colette Elise Moos**
Arlington Heights
- **Shruthi Mothkur**
Lake Zurich
- **Philip Jonathan Nebres**
Naperville
- **Richard Theobald Noriega**
Berwyn

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| • Gregory Tremel O'Bannon Jr.
Plano | • Joseph William Reda
Westchester | • Vimig Socrates
Aurora | • Anne Frances Weitekamp
Raymond |
| • Karen Tofunmi Olowu
Riverside | • Sankeerth Kallu Reddy
Peoria | • Saigopal Somasundaram
Bloomington | • Isabella Grace West
Downs |
| • Jameson Patrick O'Reilly
Oak Lawn | • Xueyang Ren
Geneva | • Poornima Sundaravelu
Champaign | • Michelle Alyse Wiebe
Elmwood Park |
| • Anthony Mario Ortiz
Bridgeview | • Daniel Francis Rosenthal
Fox River Grove | • Sai Manoja Talluru
Aurora | • Mateusz Marek Wojtaszek
Mount Prospect |
| • Nitya Sri Pariti
Naperville | • Pratyush Rustagi
Naperville | • Steven D. Tan
Aurora | • Johnny J. Wu
Aurora |
| • Deborah Yaejung Park
Deerfield | • Hannah Melanie Sambor
Lake Zurich | • James Hope Tao
Hoffman Estates | • Joshua Wu
Naperville |
| • Matthew Sukun Park
Peoria | • Shreya Murali Santhanam
Naperville | • Rachel C. Thain
Charleston | • William Wenfeng Xu
Naperville |
| • Nahee Park
Peoria | • Arjun Nitin Sarode
Round Lake | • Alyssa Marie Theodor
Oswego | • Oleksandr Yarema
East Moline |
| • Ram Pravin Patel
Mount Vernon | • Sreyesh Satpathy
Naperville | • Lynette Ho Ching To
Barrington | • Benjamin Vincent Yates
Hinsdale |
| • Ruchi Nilesh Patel
Sycamore | • John Robey Satter
Glencoe | • Shruti Rupanagudi Topudurti
Champaign | • Hye-Jean Kristine Yoon
Crystal Lake |
| • Kyle Joseph Petesch
Mapleton | • Sajishnu P. Savya
Round Lake | • Jeffrey Edward Tucker
Island Lake | • Aaron Z. Yu
Wauconda |
| • Jenson Pan Phung
Plainfield | • Andrew R. Schell
Bolingbrook | • Jeremy Mitchell Tyszkiewicz
Elgin | • Kenneth Ki-Hyun Yun
Champaign |
| • Atene Sotera Poskute
Darien | • Addison Lang Schwaller
Sheridan | • Tony Jose Vadakumchery
Mount Prospect | • Scott Daniel Zelman
Mount Vernon |
| • Michael Tyler Pradaxay
Peoria | • Travis Russell Scott III
Fairview Heights | • Sarah Allison Valentine
Bloomington | • Selam B. Zenebe-Gete
Peoria |
| • Sagar Punhani
Naperville | • Frances H. Seo
Mundelein | • Lia Ann Vallina
Romeoville | • Michael Zeng
Mundelein |
| • Brianna Eileen Pusey
Des Plaines | • Abhishek Sethi
Naperville | • Phuong H. Vo
Aurora | • Luke W. Zhan
Westmont |
| • Sarah Vorawan Puttarat
Chicago | • Sunny Shah
Woodridge | • Brennan Lee Wakey
Springfield | • Ellen Tianhui Zhao
Lake Zurich |
| • June Rebecca Qian
Lisle | • Shreya Shanker
Aurora | • Stephanie Wang
Naperville | • Amy Q. Zhu
Crystal Lake |
| • Benjamin D. Rabe
Auburn | • Susie Subin Shin
Champaign | • Ciara M. Wardlow
Willowbrook | |
| • Yvette Ramirez
Berwyn | • Woohyun Shin
Naperville | • Joseph Charles Weinrich
Washington | |
| • Vignesh Ravi
Naperville | • Suraj Sinha
Schaumburg | • Elizabeth Kathryn Weiss
Capron | |

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