

# Archiva

*"By reconnecting with the past, you can gain a better understanding of the future."*

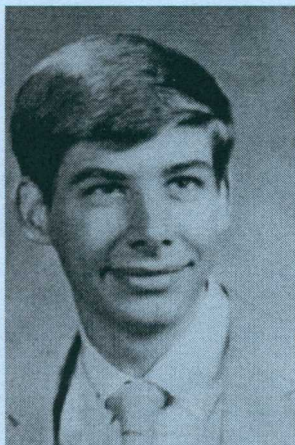
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John Court

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## Remembering the Titans: IMSA's First Year

*By Michael Hancock '89  
Alum - English Faculty*



*Michael Hancock*

Recently reading through almost forty applications from would-be members of IMSA's next sophomore class took me back to the days when I was one of those aspirants. When I first heard of IMSA sixteen years ago, the school was little more than an empty building and a glint in Leon Lederman's eye. My first visit, we saw a model dorm room, set up in one of the classrooms, that promised us how our living space would look when the dormitories arrived. Little did we know that 1501 and '02 were still months away from their

groundbreaking, or that we would spend most of our first year in 24-student communes in the main building, with its old eye-popping, wall-to-wall orange carpeting.

Like the new tenants of some old house, we had to endure the discomforts and inconveniences of a place badly in need of repair, with a leaky roof that brought ceiling tiles crashing down. It probably didn't help that some of us made regular forays into that same unstable ceiling, crawling above to gain covert access into off-limits areas. I still remember the night that rainwater and falling tiles chased residents of 8A into the commons area outside our sleeping quarters, a converted science classroom inside what is now The Center@IMSA. In the wee small hours, someone played Simon and Garfunkel's "Like a Bridge Over Troubled Waters" like

a lullaby as my sophomore-year roommate, Sam Choi, sang us to sleep.

Maybe that song has stayed with me because it captures so well the spirit of that first year, when we endured and eventually outlasted the chronic uncertainties of our new lives together. As a community, we wondered if we could even make it through the first semester, let alone the entire year. In the days before reality TV, and when the TV pit actually had a television, we felt like contestants in some combination of "Survivor" and "Big Brother," only without the cameras. We were always aware of the outside world looking in, though, as when a Sun-Times reporter stayed with us for a week before writing his feature about IMSA as a school where it was "Hip to be Square," after the Huey Lewis hit of the day. Perhaps that wasn't exactly the publicity we

*(continued from page 1)*

were looking for, though any attention in those days seemed like a good thing. When funding for IMSA's next year seemed doubtful, we piled into buses and rode down to Springfield to plead our case before state legislators. When my wing (we were in the dorms by then) returned to find one of our own had overslept and missed the trip, we tried to reassure him and ourselves that everything would be fine.

Of course, we didn't always feel that way. Like the school itself, we went through a lot of growing pains our first year. In the fall, some frustrated students with a list of common grievances put together the only issue of an infamous underground newsletter. Even if that protest didn't change our lives, it gave us the sense of a hard-won voice that had to be heard. In the same spirit, we chose "Rebels" as the nickname of our sports teams, though it was soon vetoed in favor of the more classical and less objectionable "Titans." I can just imagine the portrayals of Johnny Reb and the Confederate flag throughout the main building, like some

incongruous remnant of the old South. Would "Dixie" have been our fight song?

Somehow, the image of Atlas with the weight of the world on his shoulders better fits my experience of IMSA's first year. I managed to survive vectors in physics despite my troubles with trigonometry, labored through my work-service tenure with maintenance and security, and finally made it to the promised land of the dorms. Even if we did not steal fire from the gods like the Titan Prometheus, we became trailblazers of a sort, sometimes in spite of ourselves.

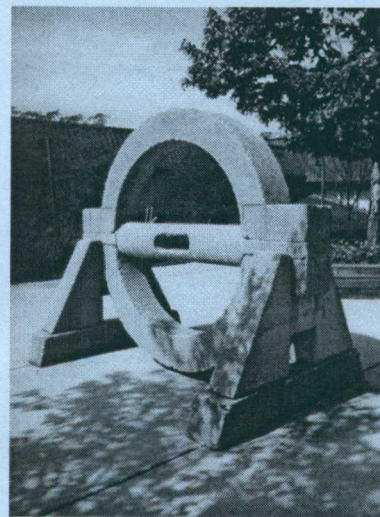
## Camel's Gate

*By Derek Blanchette '03*

"Welcome to IMSA." These are most often the first words visitors to campus hear as soon as they've crossed the threshold of the main entrance, but if the old adage holds true, and a picture really is worth a thousand words, then the visitor has already seen at least three thousand worth. Entelechy was the first third of that number; we've come to know its conceptualization by Bruce White and its everlasting importance to the community. Yare comprised the second

third of those three thousand. From its conception and creation by Scott Wallace who apprenticed under Bruce White, its story we too have learned. There resides yet another work of art at the entrance to the building, which you probably pass many times a day without giving to it any serious contemplation. The sculpture is, of course, Camel's Gate. Visually simplistic with its concrete composition, Camel's Gate has long since been the final silent greeter of IMSA's visitors.

In his studio on his five-acre property in West Chicago, Mike Baur conceived and created Camel's Gate. Although the title is an allusion to biblical texts, Baur says that, "it [Camel's Gate] is a purely visual reference." The sculpture then is Baur's own visualization of the fabled "Camel's Gate." If the Bible provided



*Camel's Gate  
Photo by Irene Norton*

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Baur with his image for Camel's Gate, then his previous works served as the impetus that shaped his image into concrete. Baur says, "The work I was doing had to do with images of things that were gateways, conduits, or passages." This included his bridges and conduits series, all of which conveyed a sense of movement.

In parallel to the creators of Yare and Entelechy, Baur's path to artistic expression began early on in his life. Baur lived in a very small, "boring," town in the Ozarks early on in life and eventually came to live in Washington and Missouri as well. He has always been greatly inspired by the works of Jackson Pollock, and recalls his first encounter at age seven with Pollock's work in a magazine photo spread. "I remember his paintings and being blown away by them," recounts Baur. Having found his inspiration early on in Pollock's work, he later found his early artistic outlet through his "fabulous grade school art teacher." At the age of sixteen, Baur quit high school. Despite the setback, Baur went on to get his BFA degree at Arkansas State and his MFA from U of I. By the age of seventeen, Baur was decidedly an artist. He recalls,

"On my college application I put I was an artist. I never thought of myself as anything else."

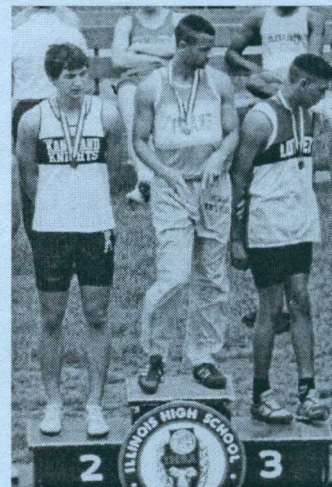
After 30 years of creating, Baur's works range from a few inches in size to those like his new work at the Department of Natural Resources that is over 50 feet long. The next ambitious item on Baur's agenda is a one hundred and twenty ton piece for ECC. You may have seen more of Baur's work if you've ever visited the College of DuPage or Western Illinois University because both sites feature pieces of his work.

## Featured Star Athletes

By Katie Linder '04

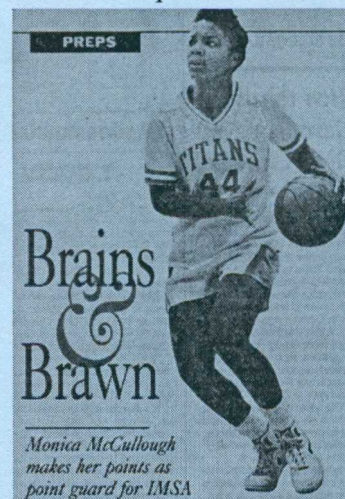
Many schools in the area assume that since IMSA is a school focusing mainly on academics, there is a total lack of athletic talent. However, this is an unfounded myth. IMSA has had a number of talented individuals and teams that are ready to compete with and beat the competition.

One of the outstanding male athletes in IMSA's history was Matt McLean. McLean was of the class of '90. He was IMSA's first state champion; a title he earned in the 100-meter high hurdles. The year McLean won the state title, he also set a record at the state meet. This



Center - State Champion McLean record stood for nearly five years before it was broken. McLean attended Cornell University, where he set an Ivy League record in the high hurdles. He later attended medical school and is now a doctor.

The year McLean left, yet another outstanding athlete came to IMSA. Monica McCullogh, class of '92, came to IMSA from Lisle High School. She qualified for state



Monica McCullogh  
Photo From Aurora Beacon News

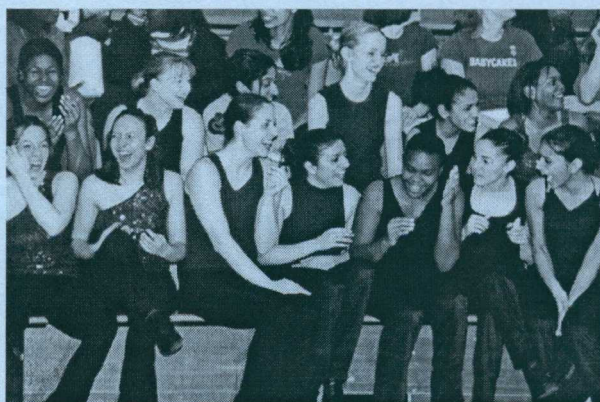
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as a freshman from Lisle and attended the state track meet for three consecutive years as an IMSA student. McCullogh was multi-talented in sports; her specialty was the long jump. In addition to track and field, McCullogh was also part of the IMSA basketball team. After IMSA, she attended the University of Pennsylvania on a basketball scholarship, but ended up participating in track and field there as well.

When asked about IMSA's athletic history, Mr. Glenn Schwartzwalder says, "We've had some very talented athletes, but these two, for their accomplishments here, really stand out."

As for the history of IMSA team sports, IMSA dance squad has a history of talented groups. "Dance squad, in their ten years at IMSA, have qualified for state seven times," says Mr. Schwartzwalder. Dance squad is the only IMSA team as of yet to qualify for the state finals. At the IDTA (Illinois Drill Team Association), the dance squad's highest finish was 5th. At the Halftime Illinois competition, the team's highest finish was 1st, in 1998. "Given that history, no team sport has duplicated that effort," says Mr. Schwartzwalder.

Two other IMSA athletes have gone on to play professional sports. Catcher John Turlais '92 was drafted right out of IMSA by the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. By special arrangement, in part due to his IMSA background, he attended Harvard in the fall and played professional baseball in the spring. John now is pursuing his law degree at Yale. Natasha Rodgers '97 played on several national championship basketball teams while at Washington University. She now plays professional basketball in Sweden, and after retiring from sports, plans to



2001-2002 IMSA Dance Squad  
Photo by Lifetouch Prestige Photography

earn a law degree. Rodgers credits her athletic success to her IMSA coach, Keith McIntosh.

To find out more information on the history of IMSA athletics, there is a scrapbook in the athletic office highlighting past and present IMSA students in their athletic endeavors. Feel free to check it out anytime!

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