

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY®

IMSA® Launches myIMSA 3.0 Online Directory: Created By Alums for Alums—Register Now to Receive Benefits!

“ALUMNI AND THE CAMPUS NEED EACH OTHER. AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CAN’T SERVE ITS MEMBERS WITHOUT ALSO SERVING THE INSTITUTION. AND THE INSTITUTION HAS TO TEACH ALUMNI ITS HISTORY, ITS TRADITIONS, AND ITS NEEDS. THE ALUMNI ARE THE LARGEST, MOST LOYAL PERMANENT CONSTITUENCY. YOU IGNORE THEM AT YOUR PERIL.”

—LANEY FUNDERBURK, DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND AN ALUMNUS OF DUKE UNIVERSITY, IN THE ARTICLE “EVOLUTIONARY THINKING” IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF CURRENTS MAGAZINE.

IMSA officials know all too well what can happen when you “ignore” your alumni. But IMSA also knows how valuable its alumni can be, even more now that IMSA is systematically reconnecting with, reengaging, utilizing and supporting its most loyal friends.

In another commitment to serve the thousands of IMSA alumni who want to connect with each other and help IMSA, the myIMSA 3.0 online directory was recently launched.

The Evolution of myIMSA 3.0

IMSA has long acknowledged the need for an alumni directory, but there have been several bumps and catches along the way. Previous implementations were done without a thorough understanding of the alumni culture, alumni information desires, or institutional data requirements.

IMSA’s chief information officer, Jim Gerry, knew the right approach for the future was to tap into those who knew those needs best—the alumni

Log on Now!

www.imsa.edu/alumni/myimsa/

themselves. myIMSA 3.0 was designed and built from the ground up by a consulting firm composed of two alumni, Greg Dhuse '99 and Maciej Babinski '97.

Continued on page 3

2006 IMSA Alumni Weekend Will Be June 24-25 Note date change for annual meeting, reunions and Lumen

The 2006 IMSA Alumni Weekend will be held on June 24-25, 2006. Please note that this date has changed since the spring issue of the IMSA Alum due to scheduling concerns.

Last summer’s expansion of Alumni Day into Alumni Weekend was a roaring success, featuring three great class reunions and a revamped Lumen event. Alumni Weekend 2006 will be even better, with more opportunities for networking, volunteering, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

The highlights of every year’s Alumni Weekend are the class reunions. In 2006, the Classes of 1991, 1996 and 2001 will gather for their reunion celebrations on the evening of June 24. If you are interested in volunteering (in ways big and small) to help with your class reunion, contact IAA President Ande Croll at corolla@imsa.edu. For more information on reunion volunteer opportunities and reunion coordinators, visit www.iaa.org.



IMSA charter librarian and archivist Marti Guarin and Jonathan Berger '00 were among those who gathered in the IRC for the IAA Faculty/Staff Lunch, one of many festivities during the 2005 IMSA Alumni Weekend.

What’s Inside

First Alumnus Appointed as Voting Member of IMSA	
Board of Trustees	8
Volunteer Opportunities.....	4-5
Thank You	2
From the IAA President	3
The Alumni Grapevine.....	6
IAA Survey.....	8

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

IMSA thanks all alumni who have assisted the Academy in various ways in recent months. Your continued response to IMSA's programming needs is outstanding!

Just a few examples follow:

Joshua Gerlick '99 for your inspiring Convocation address and **Scott Smedinghoff '05** for your lovely piano selections to open the new academic year (Josh; center left, and Scott are pictured with IMSA President Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall and IMSA Principal Dr. Eric McLaren).

Michael Brody '96, **Ande Croll '97** and **Scott Gaudi '91** for being interviewed and featured in the article "Hothouse High" that appeared in the June 16 issue of the international magazine, NATURE.

Dana Armour '04, **Ryan Armour '99**, **Kathy Chen '99**, **Brian Douglas '94**, **Chelsy Hopper '92**, **Katy Kobyluk '93**, **Bethany Kondiles '03**, **Elizabeth (Pine) Arora '93**, **Janessa (Stream) Graves '99**, **Luke Valentino '96** and **Jon Warnock '02** for attending and supporting the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education's spring donor recognition event at the Brookfield Zoo for members of the Kaleidoscope Society (lifetime leadership donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more to the IMSA Fund).

Rita Greggio '95 for assisting the admission office with coordinating a diversity workshop during Sophomore Orientation and creating additional opportunities for IMSA students.

Anne Allen '90, **Castor Armesto '97**, **Marc Booth '89**, **John Bozarth '90**, **Jill Howk Gengler '89**, **Jeremy Gottlieb '93**, **Neal Groothuis '97**, **Doug Pratt '97**, **Amanda (Leonard) Shanbaum '96** and **Scott Swanson '90** for serving on the Application Review Committee that selected the IMSA Class of 2008.

Molly Breslin '98 and **Sarah Sanders '01** for joining IMSA's staff as resident counselors.

Becky Arundale '03, **Kora Bonggen '04** and **Alice Zhao '04** for your contributions to the IMSA Kids Institute® during its summer programs for Illinois students. Kora (pictured below working with KI participants this past summer) is already developing another camp for summer

2006 based on computer programming for 5-6th graders.

Jenny (Zheyan) Chen '03, **Eric Engelhard '96**, **Christen Klochan '99**, **Kate Murray '99**, **Amy Peterson '04**, **Jason Siefertman '99**, **Stephanie Sullivan '03** and **Kelly (McArdle) Sulo '01** for serving as poster judges during IMSA's annual Presentation Day.

Ande Croll '97, **Jason Orloff '90**, **Daniel Rhee '00** and **Paul Strasma '94** for assisting at IMSA's move-in day this fall, welcoming students and their parents to campus.

Charlie Ballowe '97, **Nathan Gross '98**, **David Hamman '02**, **Joe Kestel '91**, **Kathy King '01**, **Kristen Pratt '04**, **Jenny Stynoski '02**, **Jennifer Urbauer '98**, **Matt Zanon '97** for attending the 2005 IMSA College Day to talk with current students about the college selection process and their colleges or universities.

Wendy Gable '01 for directing and editing the video "Homeland Security Begins at Home:

7 Signs of Terrorism," working with Chief of Security Jim Bondi and IMSA students and staff. The video is aimed at helping to train law enforcement authorities and the citizens of Illinois about terrorism awareness. View the video at www.illinoishomelandsecurity.org.

Doug Pratt '97, **Jason Orloff '90**, **Neal Groothuis '97**, **Sendhil Revuluri '90**, **Pooja Agarwal '01**, **Steven Benario '04**, **Eric Bowden '02**, **Ande Croll '97**, **Adam Gibson '96**, **Amanda (Leonard) Shanbaum '96**, **Paul Strasma '94**, **Ani Vallabhaneni '99** and **Matt Zanon '97** for their many contributions as IMSA Alumni Association officers and cabinet members in 2004-05. ■



Reconnecting – From Reunions to Regional Clubs

Do you recall learning time-management skills at IMSA? The skills that let you do dozens of things each day while still getting your homework done and a (very) few hours of sleep? Since I left IMSA, I have needed to sharpen my time-management abilities even more, and I am sure many of you could say the same. As we “grow up” there seem to be more demands on our time: higher education, careers, families, volunteerism. All of these may deprive us of one elusive item: free time.

At IMSA, although we always had a lot to do, we could make time for a Yare run or a wing dance or a game of cards with friends because we all lived together. Now, however, such casual encounters are not so easy. After IMSA, we spread out to do all the great and tremendous things that IMSA prepared us to do, and we may lose touch with IMSA in the process.

Some of you may have come back for a reunion to reconnect with old friends and classmates, but reunions are only once every five years. What about all the intervening time? The IAA can help to fill that time and renew friendships, possibly in your new hometown. Currently there are 11 regional clubs:

Boston; Champaign-Urbana; Chicago; Los Angeles; New York City; Pittsburgh; Portland, Ore.; Research Triangle Park, NC; St. Louis; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. These clubs do not sponsor formal events like class reunions, but they can organize an informal gathering like a dinner or a bowling night where you can visit with fellow alums in your area.

However, for these clubs to be viable, we need to know where you are and if you want to reconnect. There is an easy way to provide this information: the myIMSA 3.0 directory (www.imsa.edu/alumni/myimsa/). It takes only a few minutes to fill in all the information in the myIMSA 3.0 directory, and you do not have to do it all at once. However, once you have a myIMSA 3.0 account, you can search for fellow alums you may have lost track of or get e-mails from regional club coordinators about IMSA or IAA-sponsored events.

One of my primary goals as IAA president is to help alumni reconnect with one another and with IMSA. I know there may be some of you out there that do not have much free time to give to IMSA. Please though, if you do not have time to do anything else



**From the IAA President
Ande Croll '97**

corolla@imsa.edu

with IMSA, please take the time to complete the myIMSA 3.0 directory profile so we can keep you informed about IMSA and IAA events.

Additionally, as mentioned in another article in this issue, the IAA survey is available at www.iaa.org/survey. It is your chance to tell the IAA cabinet what kind of relationship you want to have with IMSA and the IAA. I look forward to hearing from you soon. ■

myIMSA, cont. from page 1

Dhuse and Babinski worked with IMSA staff from CNS and Advancement to find a system that would satisfy the needs and wants of alumni, but also merge directly with Advancement's existing internal database. This means that any changes made by alums will be reflected instantly in Advancement's systems, and vice versa.

The Third Time's the Charm

In myIMSA 3.0, all those features that you assume should “just work” finally do. Most importantly, perhaps, is the ability to perform arbitrary searches on single or multiple criteria! You can, for instance, find all of the members of the first five graduating classes who are still living in Illinois, or any people living in Chicago who work in medicine, or any member of the Class of 1997 living in New York,

New Jersey, or Connecticut.

With such flexibility also comes the need to carefully control what is shared and searchable. These privacy considerations were built into myIMSA 3.0 from the beginning. Each person has the ability to, at a very granular level, control what of their information is being shared. This allows you to keep some information private between you and IMSA and make other information available to anyone searching myIMSA 3.0.

There are dozens of great features inside myIMSA 3.0, and not enough space to write about them all; try them out for yourself!

How to Log On to myIMSA

To log on, just go to www.imsa.edu/alumni/myimsa/. On your first visit, you'll need to create an account – simply enter a new username and password and then enter your first name, last name and

birthdate.

Once you have an account, you can start entering your information. If you only have a few minutes, you can enter just some basic pieces of information and then return later to finish – there's no need to do everything in one sitting.

After creating your account and adding your information, you'll be able to use the search functions described above.

Online Directory Priority Benefits

If you've ever wanted to reconnect with IMSA and your fellow alums but have never had the time to make a phone call, write an email, attend an event or otherwise try to make that connection, now is the perfect time to

Continued on page 5

Admissions Volunteers Needed By Kathy Plinske '97

Applying to IMSA can be a difficult choice for potential students and their parents. As alumni, we have the opportunity to help future IMSA students and parents with this critical decision.

We are proud to announce that, for the fourth consecutive year, a group of alumni representatives will be selected



Members of the 2005 Application Review Committee included several alumni, some of whom are pictured here with current and former IMSA staff members.

by the Admissions staff to serve on the Application Review Committee where they will have a direct impact on the selection of the IMSA Class of 2009.

In addition to this opportunity, IMSA and the IAA are seeking alumni volunteers for the admissions process for the Class of 2009. Below you will find a listing of volunteer opportunities for which we still need your help. Please consider these opportunities to show your Titan pride and re-connect with IMSA. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following events,

please contact Kathy Plinske '97 at kplinske@mchenry.edu for additional information.

IMSA Preview Days (formerly known as VIP Days)

We are in need of alumni volunteers to participate in discussion opportunities during the IMSA Preview Day on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006. Alumni volunteers will help field questions from prospective students and their families. Questions in the past have focused on IMSA's academic and residential programs as well as alumni's sense of preparation for college and beyond.

Regional Informational Meetings

Hosted by the Office of Admissions, Regional Informational Meetings are held in a variety of locations statewide to give prospective students an introduction to IMSA. Alumni are encouraged to attend to help field questions and participate in discussions. Please see www.imsa.edu/admissions/gettoknow/info_meetings.php for a listing of dates and locations.

Alum-Sponsored Applications

The Office of Admissions would like alumni to help identify students who have the potential to succeed at IMSA. If you know a student who would benefit from an IMSA education and who would contribute to the IMSA environment, please contact the Office of Admissions at (800) 500-4672. Tell them you are an alum when you give them the name and address of the student. Please remember, we cannot make any promises to potential students! ■

Record number of alumni participants at Intersession 2006

In January 2006, 32 IMSA alumni will return to campus as facilitators for Intersession. That is a new record, up from 24 alumni facilitators last year.

Facilitators will lead current IMSA students through a week of learning activities around a broad variety of subjects. To learn more about Intersession and the specific sessions being offered in 2006, go to www.imsa.edu/learning/intersession.

And keep an eye on your mailbox for the Spring 2006 issue of the IMSAAlum newsletter, where we will tell you more about what alumni did during Intersession and how you can get involved in 2007!

For more information about alumni involvement in Intersession, contact Pooja Agarwal '01 at pooja.agarwal@wustl.edu. ■

Poster Judges Needed for Presentation Day 2006

Do you have fond memories of your IMSA mentorship? Do you still consider it to be one of the most pivotal educational experiences of your career? Did your IMSA mentorship ignite your passion for research?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then consider serving as a poster judge at Presentation Day on April 26, 2006.

Last year, eight IMSA alumni volunteered their time and talent to judge posters (see list of volunteers on page 2).

Dr. Peggy Connolly, coordinator for the IMSA Mentorship Program, would love to see even more alumni involvement in the future.

"I would like to see the poster session become an all-alum event, with no more than three posters per (alum) judge so they could really interact with the students," Connolly said.

Although the early morning hours for judging might make you feel as



Amy Peterson '04 (left) was one of eight alumni to judge student research posters at last year's Presentation Day.

though you were back in mentorship again, you can look forward to a complimentary breakfast, lunch (if you can stay that long!) and Dr. Connolly's (and IMSA's) everlasting gratitude.

Interested alums, please e-mail connolly@imsa.edu. ■

Several Alums Volunteer at College Day 2005



Two members of the Class of 1998, Jennifer Urbauer and Nathan Gross, reconnected at the 2005 College Day. Urbauer was representing the Florida Institute of Technology; Gross was attending for Oberlin College.



From left, David Hamman '02, Jenny Stynoski '02 and Kristen Pratt '04 speak to students about their experiences at Michigan State University.

Are you interested in representing your college or university at the 2006 IMSA College Day on Saturday, April 22? Visit www.iaa.org for more information!

myIMSA, cont. from page 3

take the plunge!

While reconnecting and networking with fellow alumni may be the most obvious reason for registering your information in myIMSA 3.0, there are also a number of other less obvious reasons to do so.

IMSA is committed to providing a number of priority benefits for those alumni who take the time to register their information in the new online directory.

Priority benefits for those alums who register in myIMSA 3.0 will include:

- Discounts on IMSA Titan Merchandise
- Special E-Notices of IMSA Job Openings
- Discounts to Selected IMSA Special Events and Professional Development Offerings
- E-Alumni News and Special Announcements
- Advance Notice of Programs for You and the Kids
- Priority Seating or Reserved Tickets for Events
- Access to Lesser-Known "IMSA Alumni in the News" on the IMSA homepage (password-protected)

The Future of myIMSA: myIMSA 3.1 and Beyond

Of course, myIMSA 3.0 is only the start. IMSA already has made some improvements to the searching engine to improve performance, and they are going to continue to make performance and minor functionality improvements for the next release, myIMSA 3.1.

More new features will be implemented based on feedback received from all of you. So please go out there, create an account for yourself on myIMSA 3.0, give it a spin, and let the Academy know what you think – and what else you'd like to see there. ■

Scott Swanson '90 contributed to this story.

We Heard It Through the Alumni Grapevine

Many thanks to IMSA alumni and alumni parents who have emailed us about the following outstanding alumni achievements. Please drop a note to brenda@imsa.edu to keep the grapevine growing!

Pooja Agarwal '01 was awarded a 2005 Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholarship. At Washington University in St. Louis, Pooja is majoring in elementary education and in the Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP) Program, both in Arts and Sciences. Truman Scholars are selected based on academic performance, leadership and dedication to public service. Read more at <http://record.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/4968.html>

Steve Downing '01 and **Jeff Tamer '01** were members of the University of Illinois team that participated in the 29th annual Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest in Shanghai, China. Read more at www.newsgazette.com/localnews/story.cfm?Number=18106

Alexander Groce '01 is studying in Russia this year as part of a fellowship in the American Council of Teachers of Russian Flagship Program. The program is designed to address the critical need for U.S. professionals who are able to speak, read, understand and write Russian at the highest levels of functional proficiency.

Dr. Eileen Gentleman '96 was named a graduate policy fellow with the National Academy of Engineering Program (exploring technological literacy) and most recently is working as a post-doctoral research associate in London at Imperial College in the

Centre for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine. Her work at the Centre focuses on using human embryonic stem cells to engineer bone tissue in vitro.

Alexandra Surasky-Ysasi '03, a student at Brown University, presented "Creating An Array of Thermal Sensors" as part of a research experience for undergraduate students this summer at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Her work was funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Keith Winstein '99, now with The Wall Street Journal, wrote the front page story "Why the U.S. Wants to End the Link Between Time and Sun" on July 29, 2005.

(Maj.) Dr. Tanya Leinicke '90 was featured in Air Force Print News Today in a story about the crash last year of two Army Blackhawk helicopters in Iraq. All four soldiers were rescued from the helicopter and treated by Dr. Leinicke and her staff. She told the Air Force Print News: "Saving lives and getting people safely home to their families is what we're here for. I think this is why all of us joined the Air Force – to do what we did today." Read more at www.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?storyID=123008770

Matthew Knisley '01 received the 2005 U.S. Student Fulbright Award for study in Tanzania in the field of Anthropology. He will study the agricultural practices of a group in central Tanzania that is undergoing the transition from a hunting and gathering lifestyle to a farming lifestyle.

Dr. Ellen Landers '92 received the Inaugural Young Alumni Achievement Award from Knox College. Landers,

associate program officer at the James S. McDonnell Foundation, received College Honors in philosophy for her research into the use of the drug Prozac to treat depression.

Dr. Noah Rosenberg '93 authored the paper on "Genetic Structure of Human Populations," which was awarded "Paper of the Year in Science" by The Lancet and rated the seventh most important science story of the year by Discover.



Princess Imoukhuede '98 (pictured above) was one of only four college students in the nation chosen to appear on the NCAA's national Public Service Announcements during the 2005 basketball championships. At MIT, she was an undergraduate researcher in Biomedical Engineering, taught a variety of courses, held offices in the National Society of Black Engineers, sang in the MIT Concert Choir and excelled as captain of the MIT field and track team. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in bioengineering at CalTech. ■

New IMSA Courses at a Glance

By Dr. David Abler, director of curriculum, assessment and research

This fall semester brings with it a number of important changes to the IMSA curriculum.

Scientific Inquiries continues to evolve. In its current version, it offers three semesters which have a specific disciplinary focus: Scientific Inquiries

– Biology, Scientific Inquiries – Chemistry, and Scientific Inquiries – Physics.

A fourth semester of the science core, Methods in Scientific Inquiry, focuses on inquiry skills and the nature of science. Science placement tests were used with incoming sophomores for the first time, allowing some students to opt out of SI – Biology, SI

– Chemistry, and/or SI – Physics.

The English team has added Film Study: History and Criticism to its menu of offerings and the TALENT program (Total Applied Learning for Entrepreneurs) has begun in earnest.

For more information, email dabler@imsa.edu. ■

Gaorav Gupta '96 Makes National Headlines with Cancer Gene Discovery

In last fall's IMSA Alum, we learned about '99 alum Joshua Gerlick's breakthrough device for cancer detection (EANeedle). This fall, we learn about another alum who is making big inroads in the field of cancer research.

Still in his 20s, Gaorav Gupta '96 is attracting the attention of major research and popular news media outlets.

Why all the attention? Gupta, a graduate student and researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, has identified a set of genes that could predict if breast cancer will spread to the lungs and just how aggressive the disease will be.

"We are the first to identify a clinically relevant set of genes that can predict metastases (spread) of breast cancer to the lungs," Gupta told Today's Health News.

Gupta is the co-author of the study which appears in the July 28 issue of NATURE.

The findings could someday help physicians to better target therapies for more aggressive types of breast cancer. This is significant because Today's Health News reported that "cancer that spreads from the breast to organs such as the lungs accounts for the majority of breast cancer-related deaths."

The American Cancer Society (ACS) praises Gupta's study in Health News as an important first step. "Being able to identify a patient with a higher probability of developing metastasis would be of tremendous importance in terms of managing these patients," said William Phelps, scientific program director of the research department for the ACS.

In reflecting on his IMSA education, Gupta said the focus on collaboration and teamwork has helped him in his research career.

"Problem sets, science projects, Math Team, Science Olympiad, and Future Problem-Solving Bowl taught



Gaorav Gupta '96

me how to work in teams to create and discover new things," he said. "Biomedical research, in particular, increasingly requires collaboration between scientists with different perspectives in order to make new and important discoveries." ■

IMSA® Increases Staffing for Alumni Strategy and Program

By Cathy Veal, vice president for advancement

As our alumni strategy and program continues to grow, I and other IMSA leaders have recognized the need to increase staffing to support this.

After several years of rebuilding IMSA's state-appropriated personal services line item and Advancement Office staffing, I am delighted to inform you that we now are able to hire two full-time development staff.

The Director of Development will focus primarily on corporate, foundation and major gift prospects. The Coordinator of Individual Giving will focus on engaging alumni, parents and other closest constituencies as donors and volunteers who make gifts of "time, talent and treasure" to support IMSA's work.

Going forward, the Coordinator of Individual Giving (Carolyn

Johnson, who is starting this fall) and the Coordinator of Public Information and Alumni Relations (Brenda Buschbacher, who has been with IMSA almost 15 years) will be the "point people" for the execution of our alumni strategy and program, working in collaboration with alumni leaders and various IMSA administrators, faculty and staff.

You may be wondering about the division of responsibilities between Carolyn and Brenda. At the risk of oversimplification, with regard to support for alumni, Carolyn will focus on helping alumni "give back" to IMSA as volunteers and donors. Brenda will focus on IMSA's outreach to, recognition of and benefits for alumni.

More about Carolyn...

In her role as Coordinator of Individual Giving, Carolyn will

work closely with leaders of the alumni association, parents association, student body, faculty and staff, and boards to support their needs and leverage their knowledge, skills and relationships.

Among other responsibilities, she will staff the IMSA Alumni Association Cabinet and provide support for IAA-sponsored activities such as Alumni Day, Class Reunions and service projects.

Carolyn brings strong experience and success in database management, staff training, program recruitment strategies, client services, and planning and organizing student activities. She is a graduate of Marquette University and has worked for Two Rivers Head Start Agency, Catholic Charities - Diocese of Joliet and Marquette University. ■

First Alumnus Appointed as Voting Member of IMSA® Board of Trustees

Erin Roche '89 brings experience as educator

For nearly 20 years, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy has been developing talented students from across the state into ethical leaders. Now, Erin Roche '89 has the opportunity to use those leadership skills in serving both his alma mater and his state as the first-ever IMSA graduate to be a voting member of the IMSA Board of Trustees.

Roche was appointed in October by Illinois State Board of Education State Superintendent Dr. Randy Dunn. While Roche's experiences as an IMSA student give him a unique viewpoint, his qualifications as a board member extend far beyond merely where he went to high school.

Roche is currently principal of Ravenswood School in Chicago. After earning his masters in education from the University of Illinois-Chicago, he served as a teacher trainer in Honduras with the Peace Corps, then co-proposed, founded and taught at

Telpochcalli, a K-8 Chicago public school "dedicated to integrating Mexican arts and culture into an innovative academic and social experience and developing fully bilingual/biliterate students in English and Spanish."

Roche's other professional roles have included teacher at Sabin Magnet School, new school planner with the National Teachers Academy, and assistant principal at Boone Elementary and then at Noble Street Charter High School, a college prep serving 85 percent low-income students of Latino and African American background.

Roche's strong background in education will bring great new ideas about how to fulfill IMSA's mission of transforming math and science teaching and learning across the state.

"It's a unique perspective," Roche said of being the first alumnus to serve on the board. "IMSA has grown tremendously since 1989. Its high school and professional development



Erin Roche '89

outreach programs are very different today. I'm fortunate to participate in shaping the next wave of those programs.

"I hope that my history with the school will add value to the discussion, especially in ways to benefit both IMSA and other Illinois schools and their students." ■

We Need Your Input

Take the IAA Survey and let us know what's important to you

It's Fall again and IMSA's 20th entering class of sophomores has settled in. Can you believe it? There are now more than 3,000 of us that have shared the unique experience of being IMSA students.

But what did this time mean to you?

The IMSA Alumni Association has been working to keep alumni connections alive with annual class reunions, Alumni Weekend, Lumen, regional alumni clubs, this IMSAalum newsletter, the myIMSA 3.0 alumni directory and the many volunteer opportunities outlined in this issue. But we know there's room for improvement to

better serve everyone who has been touched by IMSA.

Please take a moment to help guide your IAA leaders in how best to serve you. Go to www.iaa.org/survey and let us know what comes to mind when you think back to that time of Yare, the Hamster Ball, friends and activities, teachers and classes.

If you need that extra something to overcome any residual apathy, five lucky alumni responding to the survey by December 16 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time will win a \$10 gift certificate from Amazon.com! Five early-bird winners have already been selected: Stacia Whitaker '01,

Kevin Schraith '89, Kimberley Dilley '90, Joshua Levin '96 and Jeffrey Liu '97.

Thanks to the more than 200 alumni who have responded to the survey so far. We're already learning some important things - for example, more than 50 percent of respondents socialize with other IMSA alumni at least monthly, if not more frequently. Finding ways to help facilitate more of these social gatherings is perhaps one way the IAA can be of service.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Paul Strasma '94 at straz@imsa.edu. ■

Visit us on the World Wide Web!



www.imsa.edu



www.iaa.org

Need to change your address?

Log on to the myIMSA 3.0 alumni directory at www.imsa.edu/alumni/myimsa/.