

The Acronym presents

the  
**Senior  
Issue**

*Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
Class of 2017*





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*Do not simply survive IMSA. Live it.*

KEVIN ZHANG '13



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# seniors SPEAK

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**H**ear our "Seniors Speak" about their meaningful 3 years at IMSA. These reflections, advice and aspirations are meant to be more than just a personal legacy-- they are meant to leave a lasting impact on the generations of IMSA students who have followed a similar journey and the members of the IMSA community who desire to hear our stories.

Hey friendo,

In 2017, you're probably reading this for the first time. Hi.

Years in the future, in 2027 or 2037 or some other year, you may also be reading this. And to you, future someone, I also say hello. You may have found me by cleaning out your basement and stumbling upon a cardboard box in which this Senior Edition is tucked between a framed picture of your childhood dog and a stack of IMSA T-shirts. You may have blown off the dust and coughed a little, and then, maybe, just maybe, you were swept by a wave of nostalgia that took you back in time. And when that happens, and you're reading over all the other Mosts and Wills from my fellow seniors—my best friends—I hope you read this, too. And when you do, let me know. Shoot me a message.

Because eighteen year-old Madison is young, reckless, naïve, and doesn't have much to say in a Senior Speaks. But maybe forty-eight year-old Madison will, because she'll actually be a 'senior' (ha ha...ha).

So maybe this is stupid and will lead to prank calls/text messages, but here's my contact information. No matter who you are, future someone—ex-classmate, underclassman, staff, alumni—I want to meet you and talk about you. About me, about life, about everything.

I'll pay for lunch.

Love,

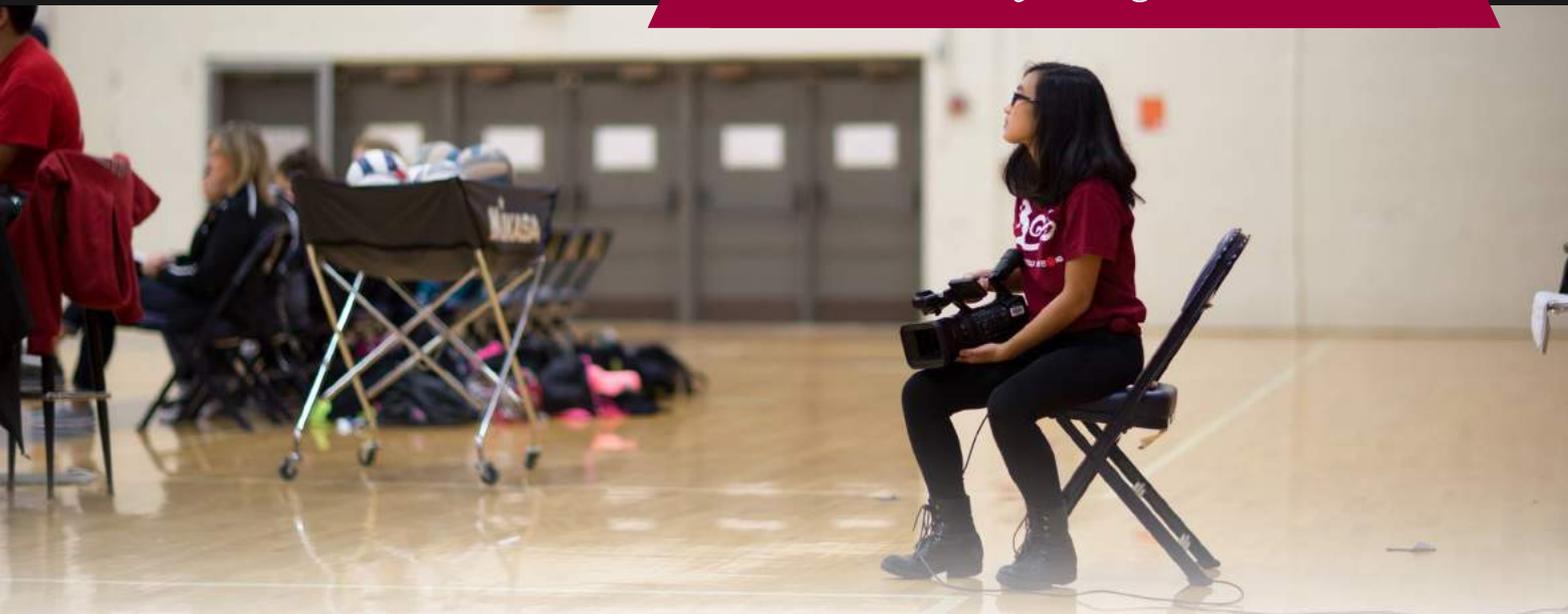
Madison Dong

(309) 825-1983

madisonfdong@gmail.com

@imonthetoilet on Instagram (See, I really am young and stupid. This username will probably change when I start applying for jobs, so just look up my name instead)

and of course, Facebook.



**A**t some point between your third or fourth hour sitting in a dark room in the back of the ITMC, you start to ask yourself why you are there. After going through a card of 500 pictures, I would always say, “I am never going to edit another picture again.” One week later, my friends would call me out because I had once again found my way to another session of Adobe Lightroom and another I-day spent staring at a computer in the main building, wondering if the walls in this photograph were truly white, or an off-color yellow.

Why do I spend so much time taking pictures and videos for ISP? ISP members get this a lot, but I don't think we really give a clear answer besides “Because I like it.”

Why do I, personally, do ISP? A huge part of it is because all of you are amazing and beautiful and can do great things.

IMSA students, intimidated by the accomplishments of those around them, tend to downplay everything they do. The thing is, though, they do a lot. Between sports practice, homework, papers, and clubs, everything just flies by. And sometimes, while things are flying by, everything becomes overwhelming. Sometimes everything overwhelms you until the only thing you feel is tired, and the only thing you want is sleep. And during those times you think “I don't remember the last time I wasn't tired.” Maybe sometimes at night you think “Man, I should really get my life together.” Maybe sometimes, you forget about how great you and everything you do really is.

But I have photographic evidence you aren't always tired. You've done amazing things in your life and you have been happy. I've seen it through the lens of my camera and saved it onto a computer in the corner of the school so you can see it and hopefully be reminded of that moment in time.

I remember sitting in the auditorium this year, seeing Lunar for the fifth time with a camera in my hands. I already watched and photographed the week's rehearsals, yet I was still mesmerized by the dances. I still laughed at the funny lines of the script, and was moved by every musical act performed. It was amazing, and it was made by IMSA students who probably hit the “all I want is sleep” point on Tuesday.

I remember watching the Clash talent shows, and seeing everyone get nervous as they prepared for their acts. I remember how proud everyone was after completing a five minute performance of singing, dancing, martial arts, and other talents to the cheers of their classmates. And after the cheers had died down and Clash week came to an end, they could remember the culmination of a month's hard work through live streams and photographs on a Facebook page.

I remember taking pictures in the back of classrooms of SLX, Power Pitch, and IMSAloquium, events that aren't as exciting to see photos of. Yet, I still had shots of people doing amazing things, going out of their comfort zones, and finishing what they started, SEV or SIR, with confidence, whether the confidence be real or illusory.

I remember people coming in during photoshoots, some already laughing and ready to become a momentary model, and others slightly concerned they wouldn't like how they looked in the photo. That was silly, because they looked beautiful in the picture.

And then I was back in a cold room in ITMC, wrapped in a blanket, clicking through pictures or scrolling through videos of people. Some of them had posed for me, others didn't know I was there, and a few tried to hide, but they were still there. And every so often I would stop at a picture and I'd laugh or smile.



Because in that moment I had captured, you were so in the moment, so focused in your sport or presentation or performance or activity.

My favorite pictures were always the ones where someone is grinning and don't know someone is taking a picture, but they look completely and utterly happy. Those photos are the reasons I have spent hours with a camera in my hand. Seeing people happy and accomplishing things without even realizing it and capturing moments of achievement and joy in between late nights writing papers and two hour naps is what makes me happy.

They tell you photos should tell a story. I hope the ISP pictures you find on Facebook tell the story of IMSA students who have accomplished amazing things. I hope you remember you are among these students. I hope these photographs are physical proofs of a moment you were happy that last a lifetime. Maybe they'll be a reminder that being a little tired through your years at IMSA was worth it. I hope they remind you that you have done great things and have made people smile.

And if you don't believe me, at the very least, know that you have made me completely happy.

**R**ight when the CD applications went out a few weeks ago, I had a handful of juniors come to me asking what being a CD is like:

"How much effort do you put into it?"

"How many hours do you get?"

"It's easier than being wing guide, right?"

"Was Clash even fun? I mean, you seemed so stressed."

To be honest, I have no clue how to answer these questions. I don't know how many service hours I get, and I certainly have no idea how to describe how much effort I put into it. I definitely don't know where to begin describing what I do as a CD.

What I can tell you is that a CD's biggest job is Clash. Plan who runs what, decide who keeps track of which event, make sure drill mixes are turned in on time. Sometimes, I felt as if school came second to being a CD, putting off my papers and studying for BC quizzes to my breaks the next day.

All jokes aside, this year, Clash was hard. Let's start with color reveal. Each garbage bag filled with the colored balloons dropped down in front of each eager hall, and screams erupted in the Old Cafe. Clash was finally here, and as we all exited the main building, the seniors would make eye contact and yell: "Last Clash, Best Clash!"

The incidents that followed changed everything. Questions were fired at Alexis and I. And to be honest with you, we didn't know the answers for 99% of the questions that were asked. Soon enough, Clash was halted for about 36 hours.

In those 36 hours, all the CDs were called into a room with members of administration and we began to have a "talk" about the circumstances we were in. I can't speak for the other CDs, but I will say that I felt guilty walking out of that meeting. Even though I, like the rest of us in that room, was not involved, the members of administration there made it feel like we were at fault. We, as CDs, could have prevented this. We, as student leaders, should've stopped it from happening. We, as good examples for the rest of campus, shouldn't have let this happen. It was an "Us vs. IMSA" situation.

36 hours of self reflection. I felt bad about being a CD. Could we have prevented this from happening? Am I just a bad CD for not knowing what to do? Is it sensible to stop Clash preparation for this? Why did they stop? What can I do to help?

36 hours of reflecting as a campus. 36 hours of RSLs trying, but failing to answer questions. 36 hours of sitting in pure shock, reflecting on what happened. 36 hours of wondering if Clash would even come back.

But it did. It came back with a boom, and for a moment, it seemed as if Clash would never be the same. For a while, I thought that Clash would be somber, and many people in the hall doubted that Clash would even be unifying. In the end, every hall brought their all. Every hall had different opinions about the point differences and how things should have happened, but on Thursday after pep rally concluded, I was crying. Because it was over. Every CD slept half the hours they usually slept during Clash prep. Every single one of us sat through that meeting with administration, and doubted ourselves and our abilities. We stayed up late nights planning for this moment. And it was all over, with faint memory of how this had all started.



That's my point. What happened this year wasn't because of Clash. We finished Clash with a big bang, and I am so thankful we no longer associate Clash with the series of events that we had. I'm a strong believer in "it was the wrong thing at the wrong time". What occurred occurred at the wrong time. It made every student leader ask themselves what they could have done to do better. It made us as a campus realize the problems we perpetually have, but never act upon. In a weird, twisted way, it was a wake up call about the issues we had as a campus, and although admin had a way of making the student leaders feel as if they were all to blame, I feel that we learned as a campus about our problems and how we can start to change them. We've started to realize the issues, and I know the leaders of next year have a definite idea of where they want to go with policy and reform.

As a CD, I learned that you will never be able to please everyone. There are 96 people in your hall, and there will be a

sophomore that gives you a dirty look. There will be things that will make you question yourself as a leader, even if you had nothing to do with it. You will have to sit through harsh criticism from adults that you thought understood you. And yes, you will sleep less. I am confident when I say that all of the CDs this year are the strongest team of CDs that IMSA will ever see. Because we have seen the hall's lowest and highest points. We, as a team, have made each other happy and the other 13 CDs are nothing but supportive of each other. As a campus, I am confident we are moving forward to addressing and fixing problems that arose earlier this year.

Even though I came into the quad after every long day with heavy feet and dark under-eye bags, I loved every moment of Clash. Even though Clash this year was super hard to run as a CD in 1502, I found pockets of time to sit back and enjoy Clash for what it is: unity, happiness, and ironically, stress-relief.

So, yes. My last Clash was the Best Clash.



**W**e, both a former and a current student of SIR, cannot even begin to describe the importance of the SIR program to IMSA. Both of us came to IMSA because of the wealth of research opportunities it provided students, we both found off-campus research opportunities with professors very well established in their respective fields, and we are both publishing the research we have conducted with our advisors. We are driven to write this piece because of a seemingly growing disinterest among students in a program that has been instrumental to our success.

At 7 AM every Wednesday morning, around ten students board the North Chicago SIR bus. Exactly one year ago, 40+ students filled this bus. Between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, the SIR program has seen a massive decrease in the number of off-campus investigations, and an overall decrease in the total amount of SIR investigations. The disparity is obvious when we compare this year's IMSAloquium abstract book with one from any previous year. In 2015 there were roughly 150 separate student projects with nearly all of them being off campus. This stands in stark contrast to the 42 projects conducted off campus this year. It is disconcerting to us, and should be for the rest of the academy, that a program so integral to IMSA's identity has seen such a substantial drop in student participation. Although there were problems with the SIR program for a number of years, we believe that the SIR department's emphasis on extremely long-term projects and the inability of students, faculty, and mentors to provide constructive feedback to the department have dramatically decreased student interest this past year.

### *The SIR Department Requires Long-Term, Irreversible Commitment to a Project*

When enrolling in an SIR with the new program, students effectively commit to three to four terms (summers and school years) of the same SIR. Many families wish to have their students home for the summer, and students who live far from IMSA are at an even further disadvantage with the requirement of summer terms in some SIRs. In the old program, students could use their terms to sample a variety of topics that interested them. Now, if students are disinterested in their research topic, they either must stick with it, or drop out of the program entirely, without an opportunity to take up another SIR. Many students have already found themselves "trapped" in this position, and have since dropped out from the program. While we recognize the benefits of long-term SIRs, especially in publication and proficiency it is unreasonable to expect that, high school students, even at IMSA, have discovered what they are unwaveringly passionate about after the SI and MI sequence. We understand that the department and the school would like to see more students publish, but many promising students are turned off by the fact that they must commit to a research project for several years that they have yet to even understand. SIR could be and has been a great opportunity for IMSA students to explore their interests, but the current process requires students to make unreasonable commitments.

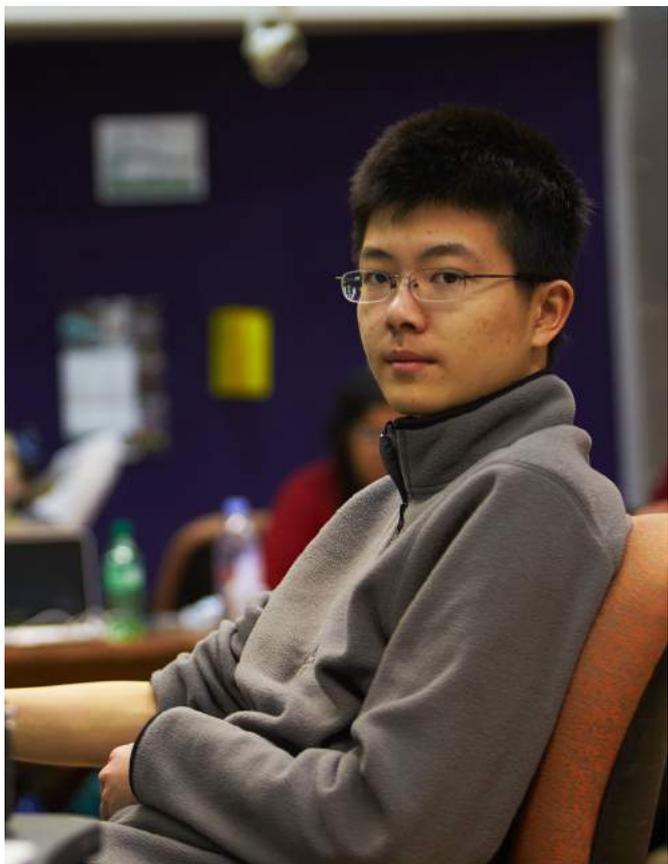


*We... cannot even begin to describe the importance of the SIR program to IMSA.*

## *The SIR Department is Not Effectively Dealing with Students and Mentors*

Throughout the entire year, the SIR department has seemed resistant to student input. We have been told at meetings with administrators that our belief in such student input is misplaced and several students have told us that they are even afraid to voice their concerns about the program with the SIR department. We believe that the SIR department cannot improve unless students are comfortable interacting with the department. Moreover, some off-campus advisors find the new rules to be burdensome compared to the old standards, and they feel less inclined to welcome IMSA students into their labs. Laboratory principal investigators and postdoctoral fellows are frequently loaded with work, and the department currently demands a lot of extra work from these people, which makes mentoring an IMSA student unappealing.

Although the SIR program in the past was not perfect, we believe that the new standards only harm student investigations by making the program unwelcoming to new students and burdensome for advisors. If the department would like students to conduct more high-quality research then we suggest they give us the independence and respect professional researchers have. The SIR department cannot force research into being. Students should have the independence to explore topics that deeply interest them and the resources to pursue them in depth, such as student-run journals, student-run seminars, more access to off campus researchers, etc.



IMSAloquium



2016

IMSAloquium 2016

**150+**  
off-campus  
investigations

IMSAloquium 2017

**42**  
off-campus  
investigations

IMSAloquium  
2017



Earlier this year, we were approached by the SIR department to form a task force to address the changes in SIR. We chose to abandon this approach because, after numerous meetings with the department and other administrators, we sensed that the department and other officials had a basic lack of trust in students. What has made IMSA great is the belief that each student is capable of revolutionizing human thought, but it now appears that we cannot have a say in our own education. We would like to assert that we IMSA students are completely capable of keeping up with the research world and synthesizing information for ourselves. We do not need the harsh regulations that the department currently imposes on us in order to be successful in university-level research. IMSA students, in the past, have been successful in entering and exploring the research world without these regulations. What the department needs in order to retain enrollment in SIR is trust in its students. Trust that we are as capable and motivated as we are made out to be. Trust that we can grasp challenging concepts and ask compelling questions in research. Trust that we can work with the department to create a more meaningful education for all. The department hopes to see us develop into fully-fledged researchers by the time we leave IMSA. The stringent new standards are a representation of the belief that students must be dragged along on their journey towards becoming scientists. The department has made it clear that it would rather we avoid exploring topics and doing small-scale projects, but they would do well to be reminded that even the greatest have small beginnings and it is us students who will soon become the professionals of the world.

**I** once heard a story about a young dude (we'll call him Leon) in a college class, and it goes a little like this.

So, Leon was pretty smart and all, and he was also very self-aware about his smartness. Naturally, he wanted other people to know about his smartness. Every time a test came back, he reveled in his grade and enthusiastically asked around, "What'd you get? Oh, really? Well, I got a 94. Maybe better luck next time?"

This pattern continued for a good part of the semester. And, of course, once things get settled in after a long period of time, it gets harder to change these habits. Or so it may seem sometimes.

One day, when another test returned, Leon got pretty excited about his 91 and once again turned around to see if anyone had bested him.

"Why do you always have to talk about how smart you are?" One of his classmates finally asked irritably.

"Um, because I am?" Leon replied with a bit of a laugh.

Another classmate turned to him and commented, "You know, you're not as great as you think you are. You're just the only one who talks about it."

"Well, clearly, you're wrong there, sir," said Leon, somewhat jovially. "Obviously I am pretty great. Otherwise someone else would have said something by now."

"Who said anyone had to say anything?" The classmate replied.

"Hey, Thomas," another nearby classmate said to a young man sitting quietly at his desk organizing his things. "Can we see what you got?"

"Okay," said Thomas with a small shrug, handing the classmate his test paper.

"You wanted to see what he got, right, Leon?" The classmate asked, handing Leon the test paper.

Leon looked down and saw: 100. He glanced at Thomas, who was not even paying attention to him as he pulled his textbook out of his backpack.

After a moment, Thomas began to feel Leon's stare and quickly glanced up at him.

With an acknowledging nod, Leon handed Thomas his test back and faced forward in his chair, putting his test away in his backpack.

~

Is this a true story? Yes and no. Maybe there is a Leon and a Thomas out there somewhere who fill these shoes, but this

scenario plays out every day in many different contexts.

We should all know this, being IMSA students. Intentional or not, some of us are always trying to one-up each other. After all, we are what many people call "the best and brightest in the state of Illinois." Naturally, competition is a part of IMSA's fabric.

Perhaps it wouldn't be worthwhile to sit here and tell all of you that you're each special in your own way. What might be worthwhile saying is that you should let your works speak for themselves and let others speak for you. Don't get this twisted, though. Going around looking for other people's acknowledgement is a slippery slope that will most likely lead to nothing but emptiness and self-depreciation; in the words of the rapper Lecrae, "If you live for people's acceptance, you will die from their rejection."

Respect plays a key role in this, too. One of my very good friends told me that if a particular someone with high status, money, and reputation were to disrespect her, she wouldn't say anything back in confrontation. Why? Because of what that someone has or has done? Works are great, but respect is one of those things that transcend accomplishments. Our good man Leon had to learn in quite a belittling sort of way that respect is **not necessarily merited by flaunted works; if that were the case**, he would have been a well-respected young man. But work paired up with dignity, attitude, and self-respect as well as respect for others? That's why Thomas won and Leon lost. No one spoke for Leon because he was always speaking for himself; once he stopped speaking, no one would speak for him. Everyone spoke for Thomas because he knew he didn't have to **speak for himself; if he ever needed anyone to speak for him**, countless people would be first in line to do so.

You see the dichotomy here? Everyone is always going to be competing; life, among many other things, is a competition. And because of this, lots of times people think that in order to stand on their own two feet, they have to push, shove, shout, and flaunt in order to get to the top. Sometimes this works, but how long does that last? Honestly, the best way to stand on your own two feet may be to do just that; climb your mountains on your **own two feet, not on the backs of other people. There's no need.** Individuals with brilliant minds sometimes tend to forget that they may have everything they need to start slaying giants and opportunities to cross into other people's lanes may just be nice-looking keys that don't actually fit into the right key hole.

So, to all of my fellow IMSA students, those whom I knew well and those whom I only knew on a cordial level, let your works speak for you and let others speak well of you based on those works. Think about it in terms of having another witness on your behalf; your word may not always be taken for what it is, but the witness of strangers might. The greatest people start simple, by respecting themselves and respecting others. No one's asking **you to kiss up to anybody or anything like that, and no one's asking you to put up a bold front.** You do you, and let your works speak for you.

**C**arpe Diem, seize the day. Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Stop and smell the roses.

There are dozens and dozens of adages and colloquialisms whirling around telling us to appreciate the moment and live in the present. It sounds easy, right? You just have to concentrate on what you are doing. Then why is it that so often our present moment gets crumbled up with our future aspirations? But is this even a bad thing? Our futures are important. After all, we are “the best the state of Illinois has to offer”.

Well my answer is yes. It is a bad thing and it does have consequences. Now I'm not disregarding the fact that our futures are important. Because they are. They are very important. But at the same time, so is the now. We are in high school, and we never will be again. And even more so, we are at a high school as unique and as special as IMSA, surrounded by a community of teenagers we may even call our second family. Most people on this planet will not experience anything close to IMSA, because it **certainly isn't a typical high school, but at the same time it is much more different from college.**

But at times it doesn't even seem like some of us are here at IMSA. Rather, we are too caught up in the next chapter of our lives: college. From feeling the need to get perfect grades to overloading a resume with sports and clubs to doing research just to have your name on a paper, we eat, breathe, and (don't) sleep for college. Throughout our high school careers, we live in hopes of receiving a big, thick envelope on the first of April granting us acceptance to one of the world's best universities. And don't get me wrong, I was right there. **But my question is, for what? What is the point of trudging through high school, at times miserable and overloaded and stressed beyond compare, just for a piece of paper reading “Congratulations”? Why throw away our only years of high school boosting up our applications? It is only going to be four years in college and then after that, we move on to the next chapter of our lives, whatever that may be.**

For the past two months, I have really realized what a centralized focus college is at IMSA compared to other high schools, and quite frankly, to the rest of the world. When I talk to my twin sister, who goes to school at my old high school, I will often, quite naturally, ask her, “where is she going to college?” or “did he get into his top school?” And almost every time she shrugs, “I don't know”, and quickly moves on. At first, I was baffled, everybody at IMSA seems to know where everybody else applied, got in, **and where they are going. How does she not know? This is important. Has she been living under a rock? I soon came to understand that while yes, college is important, it is not the end-all-be-all. She doesn't know where everybody else is going to school next year because it doesn't matter to her and it doesn't matter to her community. They do not define a person's success or their worth based off the name of where they are going to college.**

I think this is one of IMSA's biggest flaws: we place too much emphasis and importance on where a person is going to college that we lose sight of them as an individual. I don't think it's too big of an exaggeration to say that college is the centralized idea that we, as a community, revolve around. And this isn't necessarily an inherently bad thing, because, again, our futures are important, but it becomes a problem when we get too

caught up in it to live in the present moment. When the community puts so much emphasis on college, it becomes an unavoidable trap for each and every one of us; we start to define our own self-worth on a letter. And that can get very dangerous very quickly.

This flawed sense of self-worth directly impacts how we live our lives at IMSA, causing us to tailor our high school careers specifically to fit the mold for an “ideal” college applicant. I often hear people say “I'm doing it for college” or “it will look good on a resume”. Again, I am not discounting the importance of putting ourselves in the best position to reach our full potentials and enjoy college and even the rest of our lives. I also don't mean to disregard all of our hard work **and dedication to our studies and everything else we participate in at IMSA.** That is, after all, part of what makes IMSA so special: it is filled with high achieving and motivated individuals. What I am saying is do it for the right reasons. Do it because you love it. Do it because you are interested in it. Do it because you care. Don't do it for a piece of paper. It's not worth it. You are only here in this amazing community once. You only have the uniquely-IMSA opportunities at your disposal for three short years, so indulge in the ones you really want to.

It sounds cliché, but from what I have seen and experienced, I have a strong belief that everything happens for a reason and that everything will work out for the better for each and every one of us. And that can, and does, look completely different for one person than it does for the next. I know this is much easier to say from the other side of the application process, but please believe me when I say that college will sort itself out and you will end up happy **wherever you go.**

So, sophomores, as you approach your second year at IMSA where you can really start to make choices for yourself, remember that everything will work out for you in the end. Join clubs you want to be a part of. Take classes you are actually interested in. Fill your life up with things you enjoy instead of things you think you should do. The next two years will really fly by.

And juniors, your last year at IMSA is fast approaching. College applications will start rolling out and before you know it people will really start to feel the stress. Whether they be your own or not, it is so easy for the wave of college replies to pull you under, whip you around, and hold you under the surface until you feel like you're suffocating. So remember, you will get into the college that is right for you. It may not have been your number one choice when you submitted your application, or even when you opened the envelope, but I have confidence that when it is all said and done, it will be the college for you and it will become your number one school.

If you get nothing else out of this article, please take away this: your future will work out. I promise. That's not to say you don't need to work for it, because you certainly do, but work for it in a way that uplifts you in the present moment. Work for it in a way that doesn't feel like work, because you should genuinely enjoy what you are doing. And don't be afraid to stop and smell the roses every once and awhile.

**A**s a freshman at Northwestern University, Kalina Silverman did not have the highest self-esteem. She had trouble adjusting to life, making new friends, and getting her work done. These were typical concerns of anyone new to a school. During her sophomore year, after she'd adjusted a little better, she had a conversation with a friend, where they both confessed the tough times they went through.

"Wow, I wish every conversation could be like this," her friend said. Immediately, Silverman ideated BIG TALK: a social movement to eradicate the idea of small talk and only ask the deeper questions. From there, she made a social experiment video where she approached strangers, introduced herself, and asked them what they wanted to do before they died. It went viral. BIG TALK was featured on The Huffington Post, USA Today, and Elite Daily. Silverman even made a TED Talk about it.

We are a school of 600 students and 300 staff and faculty members. We should not need a social movement to have the right conversations.

We're under the impression that we have overcome small talk. The amount of times the phrase "2 AM Deep Talks" is thrown around is a testament to how deeply we understand our peers.

But, most of the time, who are those conversations with? The sophomores that always break in-room in your quad? Wingmates? Hallmates? Maybe, we even go as far as to have these conversations with other people in our class. If we are lucky, we converse with students from other classes.

We are lucky to find those 5-6 students to consistently have "big talk" with. Those are called friends or, more generally, that is called a friend group. Unfortunately, the same conversations are rarely maintained outside of our relatively large friend groups. The same conversations are not maintained with our staff and faculty members.

When we approach our favorite teachers, RCs, Sodexo staff, and members of administration, too often are we looking for wisdom. We reach out in times of stress or when we need answers and understanding.

Anyone can give advice. That's how we grow independently. But that's just selfish.

When we ask questions to learn about the other person, that serves a purpose greater than personal growth. We learn untold stories, and this school gets just a little bit smaller.

Brandon Stanton, the creator of Humans of New York, has found a not-so-revolutionary way to make a microcosm out of a metropolis. He uses one specific question to start off his interactions: "What is your greatest struggle right now?"

Let me tell you the idea behind Humans of IMSA: the one place we can ignore all isolation caused by friend groups, gender, sexuality, or race. We can learn about people for their opinions, experiences, and, most importantly, their battles.

Learn about a Sodexo worker who moved 11 times and could never form true friendships. Learn about a maintenance worker who began work at 16 to compensate for their missing father figure. Learn about a junior with so-called privilege who fights domestic violence on a daily basis.

When we see the battles our very own neighbors have fought, we realize our problems aren't actually all that unique. What's more, we'll realize we as individuals aren't all that unique.

At an academy of the most talented teenagers in the nation, nothing seems to matter more than being unique, whether it be for social survival, club applications, or college. There is nothing we crave more than to feel we are one-of-a-kind in our thoughts and experiences, whether that means being the only one out of your friend group consistently receiving two hours of sleep, or being the only student in your LEAD group who actually cares. **And that challenge to raise ourselves up may be exactly what our problem is.**

As soon as we discover how similar we all are, we'll stop trying to supercede each other one every single matter, whether it's political discussion or dance choreography. Maybe instead of standing up and standing out, it's time we sat down and paid more attention. Recognize how small this community can be when you put yourself on the same level as a stranger. Chances are you will get along swimmingly.

So no, we don't need a social movement. We just need a change in habit. Whether you are a faculty member who knows every face in this academy, or a sophomore student who has yet to discover it, I challenge you. Learn more about the place that is truly unparalleled to anywhere else in the world and is bound to shape you for the rest of your life. Start all of your conversations with something substantial. Do it for a day. Then maybe a week. **Then maybe your life will become that much more fruitful you can never go back.**

Find the stories. Doors will open. And we all have so much to learn.

**I** go to Woodman's several times a week. Not necessarily to buy anything, but just to take time and think. There's something oddly relaxing about strolling through aisles, just reading nutrition facts on products.

It's nice to break free from the monotony of everyday life as a student. The past couple of weeks, I've frequently found myself contemplating my satisfaction with life. Although I spent a lot of time trying to search for excitement and variation to combat boredom, I still felt an overwhelming melancholy.

Every day felt like a bore, dragging on and on.

Wake up. Go to school. Sleep.

Throughout the school day, I find myself looking forward to the last mod, and an opportunity to break free from the academics, if only for a moment. Such relief is only met with the mounting dread of homework, group projects, extracurricular activities, and whatever else plagues IMSA students. At the end of the day, I'm exhausted, wishing for a quality rest, just so that I may... do it all again the next day.

If time is viewed as pure progression, then boredom can be viewed as its antagonist. Inactive moments stretch to what may seem like years, while time flies by with any semblance of enjoyment. We thrive off any form of stimulation we can get. Given the choice between working on problem sets and sitting silently, the vast majority of us would choose the mathematics.

The other day, I had my shortest school day ever. Three mods – yet anticipation for the end of the day turned three measly hours into eons. That isn't to say there is no fun in school. The goal isn't to criticize monotony, but to draw attention to it. I had the opportunity to pick out moments to lighten the boredom, but I spent my time dreaming of the future instead of living in the present.

Combat boredom through eclecticism. It isn't enough to merely find complexity in the mundane, without selecting what to take in and what to leave out. The path that you walk is decided by you alone.

Open your eyes. Take pleasure in the little things.

By deeply considering what many cast aside as uninteresting commonality, you are able to exercise your mind in an unmatched manner. To put it simply, taking the time to think better teaches how to think freely. Find your own Woodman's, untouched by the flashier aspects of life, and consequently free of distraction.

Although it's frequently shoved at us, IMSA students are truly Illinois' best and brightest. However, it is no coincidence that the best and brightest also happen to be the most stressed and broken. Somewhere along the way, we become desensitized to the driving curiosity that took us this far. Learning becomes tedium, rather than a treat. We end up losing awareness of the sheer volume of incredible resources available at IMSA.

Name another high school with a ludicrous offering of Ph.D.-holding teachers. How about one with sophisticated virtual reality technology and development led by students?

There's an ancient Chinese saying: "Good medicine tastes bitter."

Acknowledgment of IMSA's merits is crucial to finding happiness, satisfaction, and fulfillment here. Instead of celebrating what greatness IMSA is able to provide, we take note of the un-pleasantries. We get caught up about a particularly dry pork loin at Sodexo, when we should be thankful for the ready availability of fresh meals. Boredom draws attention to the hiccups of life, when the focus should truly be on the immensely fortunate everyday offerings.

A day isn't just a day, but an opportunity to break the monotony and its associated melancholy. Enjoy the most uninteresting events of everyday life, which we have taken for granted, and revel in what others would not give a second thought. Take time to stroll down the aisles of Woodman's, be it literally or figuratively. Make an effort to find motivation, and the rest will follow. Defeat boredom and free yourself from its restraints to achieve the unachievable.



**L**et me preface this with the following: I'm not that great at writing. I know I can't give inspiring advice that will really help everyone later down the road or change their view of the world, but here's my best attempt. I'm going to try and keep this short and sweet. Here are the five things I took away from IMSA that really made a difference in my life. Hopefully, they can help you out a little bit too.

**1.** You're better than you think you are. This sounds really cheesy, but it actually helped me out. I came from a small town with little hope that I'd do well here. Heck, I failed my first math test. However, my teacher, Ms. Tobin (she had to leave IMSA but she was wonderful), never gave up on me. It was clear whenever she'd talk to me or help me with a problem that she knew I could do it. And I noticed. And I started to do better. So have some faith in yourself. Nature doesn't give you anything you can't handle.

**2.** Hard work comes out on top. At IMSA, I was surrounded by geniuses and exceptional talents. People that tested into BC I or MVC. People that killed every test without studying. People that could code unbelievable programs or write the most impressive essays. Sophomore year, people would call this person and that person "gods." Nowadays, I guess people use the term "beasts." I wasn't one of them. I had no innate talent. All I could do was work hard. That's it. So that's all I did. And it worked. And that's when I realized that effort was the great equalizer. I could keep up with those stars that I always admired. I couldn't derive the formulas on test day, but I could do a good job nonetheless. So everyone normal out there who feels like they're not quite as sharp as everyone else, don't worry. Just keep on chugging. And you'll get to the station right on time like everyone you admire.

**3.** Find out what makes you happy. This is my call to everyone: take some time and think about it. Be honest with yourself. Not what makes your parents happy, and not what makes your friends happy. Think about what makes you happy. And spend a little more time doing it. Maybe you like playing a game of FIFA or Smash. Maybe you like working out or playing basketball at the 04 courts. Maybe it's binge watching Game of Thrones or House of Cards. Maybe it's slowing things down and reading a good book. Cooking. Cleaning. Running. Eating. Football. Sleeping. Singing. Playing an instrument. Learning something new. The list goes on and on. Just give yourself a little bit of extra time each day and do it. Please. You won't regret it.

**4.** Looking back on it, there was no reason to stress out. Zero. 0. Zip. Nada. When I look back at my past three years, I keep on thinking that I shouldn't have worried about things as much. That isn't to say that I shouldn't have tried. Far from it. It just means that I, and a lot of other people, worry unnecessarily about things. When you turn in a math test, there's no point worrying about your grade. You can't change it. So just move on and do better next time. When you're worried that you won't make the team after a bad tryout, it's out of your hands. All you can do is work hard and move on. Realize that many things are out of your control, so don't cause yourself extra suffering by worrying about them.

**5.** Realize that life isn't centered around your teenage years. How many of the things you do now will you really remember ten years down the road? Just for fun, look ten years back. How many of those things really mattered? Not too much, huh? You could have done a bunch of different things and, for the most part, things would have turned out the same. So don't put so much pressure on yourself during this time of your life. Life is impatient. Life doesn't slow down and indulge with you. Life goes on. So don't worry. Just trust in yourself that everything will turn out alright. One of the biggest things I've learned recently was the concept of "Amor Fati". Love of fate. Earlier, I mentioned you must accept the things that are out of your control and you'll be better off. I'm going farther than that. Don't just accept your fate. That can easily get confused with resignation, submission, and grudging acceptance. So don't accept your fate. Love your fate. Love everything and anything that happens to you. Trust (or delude yourself if you're more of a cynic) that things happen for the best. Failed a test? Maybe you'll be encouraged to try harder next time. Flight cancellation? Maybe that'll give you time to call old friends and catch up with them. Lost \$20? Maybe you'll pay extra attention and won't lose \$200 down the road. Girlfriend dumped you? Maybe you'll come out stronger and be a better person next time. College rejected you? Maybe you'll be happier and do better at another place. Now reread the last ten sentences without the word "maybe." See the difference? That's the difference between accepting life or hoping that life will improve and loving your life. So love your life. Amor fati.

Sheesh, I told you I'm a bad writer. Tried to keep things short and sweet, but I didn't quite manage to do that. Anyways, I hope this will help someone somewhere at sometime. Thanks IMSA. I'll miss you guys. Take care :).

**Nost-** : a return to home  
**-algia** : pain

Now that we've got our bases covered, when I tell you I love the feeling of nostalgia you might be a little confused and think I'm sadistic. Like, how does someone even like pain?

It's that thing people always say. The sum of two things is greater than its individual parts or whatever. I can't just spell out nostalgia and expect you to understand it. It's a feeling you experience, and as soon as you do, you get it. You know that's it. That, my friends, is nostalgia. It's that visceral feeling I get right in the pit of my stomach when I'm sitting alone on the 05 slabs enjoying the spring breeze and the start of the summer sun, and remember last year when I did the same with my seniors. Or when I have one of those dejavu moments and I'm thrown back to the middle school days. And while a pre-braces Ravali is horrific, I just can't help but get sentimental.

The thing about nostalgia is that not everyone experiences it. It isn't something just given to us, it's a privilege we get. Our memories and our past are so unbelievably fantastic that it pains us to not be back there. It hurts to think that we aren't in the past, experiencing those indispensable moments.

When I look back on all the good times of IMSA, I can't help but start smiling. The dance parties after Diwali, the late night 3 AM talks and memeing, those random 2-hour dinners in Sodexo, and the many, many hours of clutching assignments. It doesn't mean the present isn't just as good and that the future can't surpass it.

But, yeah, it still hurts.

It hurts to think back and know that very soon I won't be able to make more of these memories at IMSA that I can reminisce upon. But I'm so happy that I'm so sad to leave, because that means these three years have meant something. It was more than stress and duress and tears. It was laughs and happiness and beauty and pure joy.

It's like I'm almost done writing a book. And once I'm done, I'm done. I mean, this book is only a certain length. And in the years to come I can read and re-read those same pages, but I can't write more. Some of these characters will vanish and I will never know what happens to them. Some of them might come along to the sequel. But, I promise you, I will re-read this book again and again, until every page has doggy ears, the binding is frayed, and the cover is falling off. And I hope you have the chance to do the same, too.



**E**very year for the past three years, I have changed my Facebook cover photo to a similar picture of myself with more or less the same 6 people, taking a cutesie jumping picture during Holi. Scrolling through the three of them in chronological order, the physical changes are obvious. Overlooking the fact that our faces are slightly more aged, and we've all grown maybe a quarter of an inch taller, the underlying change in confidence level is what I start to see most clearly. Our awkward stances are less awkward. Our timid smiles are less timid. Our cautious eyes are less cautious. We've slowly started to understand and accept the life laid out before us.

When the topic comes up, some of us say we wish we hadn't put ourselves through IMSA. We say that if we had known what it would be like, we never would have come. This is a direct result of a lack of confidence in ourselves. We start to tell ourselves that we aren't good enough for IMSA, that we're not as smart as IMSA students should be, that we can't work as hard as real IMSA students should, that we're not cut out to be here. We start to see ourselves as mediocre. This is wrong.

The online definition of mediocre is "of moderate or low quality, value, ability, or performance". Because some of us may no longer be the top ranked student in our class, we start to lose faith in ourselves. I, personally, became afraid of failing because I wasn't good enough, so I tried a little less and told myself I failed because I didn't try hard enough. The more I told myself this, the more I started to believe that I wasn't capable of doing better. On the spectrum of IMSA student capabilities and intelligence, I labeled myself as mediocre—if not lesser.

This shouldn't be misconstrued as a lack of the desire to do better. I do believe that I wanted to be a better student, a better person, a better role model. What I didn't believe was that I could do it. I only recently realized that anything I believed I could accomplish, I did. I believed I could get into IMSA. I believed I could start an organization. I believed I could become an Editor-in-Chief of the Acronym. I believed I could get into college. I believed I could, and so I did.

When I stopped believing I could do something, that is when that is when I stopped accomplishing things. The organization I started my junior year, called the Global Social Innovation Initiative, was a risk I wasn't sure I should take. I had never put myself in such a leadership role before, and I didn't know if I knew how to handle it well. Yes, I was able to start the organization and developed a team of dedicated students who were willing to work with me on various projects. However, over the course of the year, I slowly started to lose faith that I could actually accomplish anything as the leader of this club. I gave up and I quit, but I still wonder what could have happened if I had only persisted a little longer. I wonder what would have happened had I not labeled myself as mediocre. Now I am graduating, and I can't go back to fix that mistake or all the others that were a direct result of the same reasoning.

However, looking back, I realize that this reasoning of mine could have changed much sooner than it did. The first time I labeled myself as mediocre was after receiving my first C on a quiz my sophomore year. It was a setback that made me assume that I wasn't ready for this school, and that I didn't belong. It wasn't until very recently that I realized how thoroughly this impacted the rest of my time here. I have realized a lot more about myself since then, and have come to appreciate IMSA even more for being a catalyst responsible for my own personal growth and maturity. Now, as I leave, I have two parting requests.

One, for our teachers: your students look up to you, really. Most of them see you as some of the sole people who can affirm their intelligence. We all know you are busy, and we all respect you more than we even respect ourselves sometimes—but what stands out to us the most is your own belief in us. When you make comments, let them be for the purpose of making your student know they can excel here. Criticism is good; we will take your criticism and run with it—but criticize us with the intention of letting us know that we can do better, that we can fix our mistakes. When we do make those mistakes, please bear with us. It's stressful here—we're sleep deprived and exhausted, just trying to get through the day while improving our GPA. A lot of us are under constant pressure from parents, friends, other classmates, or even some of our teachers. Understand that yes, we could participate more in class, or pay more attention, or spend more time learning how to work through an assignment, and we are trying to. Still, sometimes we need a push from you to know that our mistakes will not be judged and that we can accomplish our goals despite our mistakes. I will admit, most of the time we would much rather take a nap than learn how to calculate buoyant force, but I promise you, we are trying to focus and do better. If you, the only people who give us feedback on our academic abilities, do not believe in us, then how can we expect to believe in ourselves? We take your words seriously. Just a little bit of faith from you would give us so much more confidence.

Two, for my fellow classmates, underclassmen, and future IMSA students: believe in yourself. You are here for a reason. Teachers, administration, and other adults from all over the state vet hundreds of applications to IMSA each year—they made no mistake in admitting you. You belong here, and there is no better place to make your dreams a reality. I agree with a majority of you, IMSA has its flaws. Sometimes we're given the short end of the stick, our luck runs out, or people don't agree with us. Sometimes our plans don't go our way, other people make us lose faith in ourselves, or our mistakes get the best of us. There are ways around that. Do not give up. Believe in yourself even when no one else does. Believe in yourself, because I believe in you.

If you just believe in yourself a little, there are so many things you can accomplish here. God, I am so thankful for IMSA. These

past three years may have felt like they were ruining me, and I may have hated every waking, stressful moment, but I have never felt so capable before. If you only recognize one good thing about IMSA, let it be the extent to which you develop as a person. I truly believe that IMSA makes us better humans. Living with hundreds of students for three years, all like-minded but diverse in nature, truly brings out the best and the worst in people. When you find yourself in situations you didn't think you knew how to handle and come out even stronger, you realize your limits extend farther than you can even imagine. After three years of not believing in myself, I promise myself I will stop thinking of myself as mediocre; and I promise you, you are not mediocre.



# Senior Statistics

the average IMSA senior is a...

5' 7"

male



He's from the Chicago suburbs, but his parents are immigrants to the USA.

He's committed to 4 extracurriculars and spends 2.5 hours a day on social media.



He'll order food 2 times a month and sleeps 5 hours a night plus an extra 3 naps a week.

# Class of '17 Favorites

<p><i>Movie of the last year</i></p> <p>1. La La Land 2. Zootopia</p>	<p><i>Website</i></p> <p>1. Facebook 2. YouTube</p>	<p><i>Sports Team</i></p> <p>1. Chicago Cubs 2. Chicago Bulls</p>	<p><i>IMSA Teacher</i></p> <p>1. Dr. Robert Kiely 2. Dr. Don Dosch</p>
<p><i>TV Show</i></p> <p>1. House of Cards 2. How I Met Your Mother</p>	<p><i>Music Artist</i></p> <p>1. Drake 2. Ed Sheeran</p>	<p><i>Sodexo Food</i></p> <p>1. Cookie Bake 2. Orange Chicken</p>	<p><i>IMSA Administrator</i></p> <p>1. Minerva Juarez 2. Amy Woods</p>
<p><i>Book</i></p> <p>1. The Book Thief 2. To Kill A Mockingbird</p>	<p><i>Sports Star</i></p> <p>1. Herschel Gupta 2. Stephen Curry</p>	<p><i>IMSA Course</i></p> <p>1. Microbes and Disease 2. Creative Writing Workshop</p>	<p><i>Residential Counselor</i></p> <p>1. Robyn Norton 2. Josiah Payne</p>

# Class of '17 Predictions

## The world?

- 65.9% believe President Trump will run for reelection in 2020.
- 23.1% believe Nikki Haley will become the first female president.
- 42.9% believe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be solved in our lifetime.
- 28.6% believe Vladimir Putin will be deposed.
- 52.7% believe North Korea will have a revolution.
- 60.4% believe ISIS will fall.
- 53.8% believe self-driving cars will become standard by 2027.
- 75.8% believe we will get to Mars in our lifetime.
- 29.7% believe we will see World War III in our lifetimes.
- 42.9% believe we will find a cure for cancer in our lifetime.

end of the world?

**5.5%**

believe we will see the apocalypse

## IMSA?

- 63.7% believe a 2017 senior will win a Nobel Prize.
- 12.1% believe a 2017 senior will become President of the United States.
- 24.2% believe IMSA will cease to exist before our 10-year-reunion.
- 13.2% believe IMSA will have cars on campus.
- 38.5% believe IMSA will build another residence hall.
- 19.8% believe IMSA will have IN3.
- 9.9% believe IMSA will have another campus.

hot off the presses

**100%**

believe a senior will make headlines

## Themselves?

- 6.7% will regret attending IMSA in the future.
- 95.6% will attend the 10-year reunion in 2027.
- 76.7% will talk to their roommate in 10 years.
- 31.1% will send their kid to IMSA.

get hitched!

**12.2%**

will marry an IMSA alum





# senior biographies

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**D**iscover the minds that form the class of 2017. Their journeys are more than a statistic and tassel. Learn a new side to the beloved seniors through aspirations that fill them, memories that define them, regrets that may not leave them, and mantras that guide them.

# Senior Biographies

**FP:** Future Plans **BL:** Bucket List **MMM:** Most Memorable Memories

**BR:** Biggest Regrets

**WWW:** Wise Words of Wisdom

## Aakash Lakshmanan

**FP:** I hope to get my PhD in physics and work as a professor at Princeton University or be accepted into the Institute for Advanced Study.

**BL:** Skydive, go to space, take a road trip across America, eat two whole Chipotle burritos, learn a 5th language like French or Japanese.

**MMM:** My last Diwali Boy's dance. My hour long conversation sophomore year with Susriya. Geneva Commons sophomore year with Susriya and Robert. Athena's Sweet 16 dance and party. Ordering sushi with Advai and Noble. Dancing and playing the almond game with Ram at the end of sophomore year. Naperville downtown with Sr. Palos, Krishi, and 07BDQ (Rajiv, Vimal, Waleed, Paul). Going to the CSO rehearsal in Chicago with Athena. Last week of sophomore year with Rajiv telling me "it'll all be alright". Bdubs, coffeehouse, and piano room singing with Ayan, Madison, and Ram on Ram's birthday. Hearing Pranav sing for first time on stage at Diwali. Spending last summer in Chicago with Nitya. Oxford Day. Singing and going crazy with Ram and Herschel in quad senior year (also Black Widow with Hersch sophomore year). Every late night with Ayan.

**BR:** Not starting to work out earlier.

**WWW:** Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.

## Abby Mungcal

**FP:** I don't really have a plan. In the next 10 years, I just plan to be happy.

**BL:** Go back to the Philippines. Write and direct a short film (that is not Ice Cream

Drive). Graduate college. Learn how to decently do music. Wear stilts.

**MMM:** Our sophomore year snow day. Playing basketball outside 04. Planning Ice Cream Drive with Maria. Crying at the screams of children during summer Allies. Tuesday night movies with Kate and Megan. When Alexis and I were too loud late at night and our RC checked the fridge for in-room violators. Everyone's cute and weird poses during ISP photoshoots. Making "Straight Outta IMSA". Everything about Tinikling. Ordering pizza with my American Studies class. Piggyback rides. Getting run over by our class during junior year homecoming. Not getting run over by anyone and winning our senior year homecoming. Getting extremely frustrated at extremely bad puns. Fun times at the 02 swing set.

**BR:** Not getting to know everyone in our class as well as I would have liked.

**WWW:** Do what makes you happy.

## Adam Grobman

**FP:** I honestly have no idea what I want to do with my life. Right now, I want to study CS, but in two years when I have to make that decision, who knows?

**BL:** Visit every continent. Grow old with someone. Remember the good. Enjoy every day. "Advance the human condition".

**MMM:** Sophomore nights in the Peer Tutor Room. Dinner at 5. Home Depot. NPH Peru Intersession. X-Tina Scoot's Good-Bye Party. Hair dying on the bridge (especially that time we made Kaleb look like a murderer). Clash 2015. 1501's annual high heel race. Ray's cult to Katie Pauss. Key Day. España con Palos. Clash 2016. Convocation fashion show when Lucas embraced his true identity as trash. Pumpkin-gate. Clash 2017.

**BR:** Not getting to know people from all

across campus better.

**WWW:** Before you can "advance the human condition," you have to maintain your own.

## Adrian Bebenek

**FP:** Yale University, Neuroscience. Surgery. Medical Research.

**BL:** Forbes 30 Under 30. Travel the world for one year. Learn another language. Be a good person. Staying in touch with IMSA friends.

**MMM:** Living with Krishi, Alex, David, Jae, Sriv, Pranav, Sushil. Random Saturday nights and horror movies with Jayoon. Basketball with Belford and his car lights. Disco Polo and ripsticking with Jacob. Spring Break 2016 with Akash and Eshan. "Requiem for a Dream" with David, Krishi, Alex. Late night talks with the Real Quad. Fox Valley Mall trips. Bulldog Days dinner with IMSA alums. 05A Memes. Happiness when Real Quad got into college. Chicago and music with Nathan Errampalli. So much SIR. Skipping class on November 1st with David to start college app. Getting good at guitar.

**BR:** Not meeting people earlier. Starting college applications too late. Not quadding senior year. Not taking more risks and chances.

**WWW:** It always seems impossible until it's done.

## Aira Peregrino

**FP:** Honestly, who knows?

**BL:** Write a book. Learn to play by ear. Make an impact on the world. Be happy.

**MMM:** Clash of the Halls. Lunar! Walking around campus late at night with friends. Bonding with wingmates. Move-in day.

**BR:** Taking too long to open up to people.

**WWW:** A dead end will only stop you if you don't try to push through it.

### **Akash Palani**

FP: Work on a lot of things to help a lot of people. It's the only work that gives me fulfillment, and hopefully I get the opportunity to do such work in the future.

BL: Marathon Harry Potter. Eat McDonald's in at least 50 countries. Buy clothes on the Champs Élysées. Spend a full night at IMSA. Go to a White House Ball.

MMM: The night we went caroling after Bobby broke his foot. The last night of senior year, when there were 60 people in Down-Quad. MI4 Problem sets in Eshan's room. Late nights with MJ. SLD Week, especially the last day; never had I experienced such fierce pride. SLX 2017.

WWW: "Take care of each other, and the rest will take care of itself" ~ José Palos

### **Alexander Yow**

FP: In 10 years, I hope to have found something or a multitude of things I am passionate about enough to pursue to the end of my days.

BL: Visit all Seven Continents. Complete an Iron Man. Bench 315. Be told I'm a good singer. Sleep more than 8 hours a night for a full week.

MMM: Football on Yare. Soccer. Sordaria. Lifting with Swim Squad. Late night movies and talks with David and Krishi. Biochemistry. 05A Study Room. Late night skypes. Evolution of Sikea Boi. Eating Krishi's Oatmeal Iced Cookie "Clif" Bars. Helping David text girls. Unreciprocated cuddles with Pranav. Basketball at 3 AM with Joseph.

BR: Not trying hard enough sophomore year.

WWW: Fill everyday with everything you want to do and nothing less.

### **Amarachi Okoli**

FP: In ten years, I see myself as a practicing pediatric oncologist with a potential fiancée and at least one novel on The New York Times bestseller list.

BL: Join Doctors Without Borders. Have at least one novel become a New York Times bestseller. Give an inspirational talk. Make my Lord Jesus proud. Make my dear parents proud.

MMM: Finding friends in the most unlikely places. One-on-one time with special underclassmen and classmates. Rush

Intersession 2016. Track meet junior year in the freezing cold drinking hot chocolate and being packed in a fleece blanket like a sardine with fellow track teammates. Track meet senior year in the freezing cold not drinking hot chocolate and still doing well at my races and getting back to campus late to get some good news. My quiet times in my room during 5-6 block periods on A&C days second semester senior year. Waiting thirty minutes to an hour for a pizza box with my brother in 1507 (#siblingbondingtime)

BR: Doing SIR. Not applying to as many colleges early. Not reaching out enough to get to know certain people I meant to spend more time with. Not doing EXODUS.

WWW: People cannot define you – unless you invite them to do so.

### **Amy Liu**

FP: I will be attending Duke University. I hope to eventually attend medical school (maybe also at Duke, who knows) and earn my medical degree. With regards to what field of medicine, I'm not exactly sure. Perhaps surgery.

BL: Run a marathon. Travel all across China. Learn two more languages. Read the classics (books to read before you die).

MMM: Lunar New Year 2017. Clash 2017. Basketball Senior Nights. Saturday Tennis Tournaments.

BR: Not fully living in the moment. Sometimes, I worried about work and tests, which is reasonable, but also prevented me from enjoying a lot of events that are unique to IMSA, especially during my sophomore year.

WWW: No pain no gain.

### **Amy Yu**

FP: In 10 years, I hope to be on my way to obtaining an MD/PhD dual degree.

BL: Go to Coachella. Give a TED talk. Save a life. Publish a book. Fall in love

MMM: Lunar! Every moment with Divya Dureja. #staywook. Nuclear fire ramen. Try not to cry challenge. BIG BEEF + March on 05. Late nights with the quad. FPS adventures in Normal, IL. Clash every year. Ethics with Lindy and Linnea. Wet wipes at the fitness center being the "luck of the draw." Gypsy weddings. Internship lunch breaks. Fangirling over HSM with Ravali.

BR: Not putting myself out there enough sophomore and junior year.

### **Andrew Ye**

FP: Majoring in Biology. Dream Job is being a physician, but really a professional dancer. In 10 years I may be doing residency and hopefully be in a professional dance company.

BL: Get Married. Dance in California. Try parkour.

MMM: Meeting my friends. Becoming a CD. The first week of sophomore move-in.

BR: Not trying harder when it came to my academics and social life sophomore year.

WWW: Get out there and do something new, because you might like it.

### **Andriy Sheptunov**

FP: This can go one of two ways. Option 1: working on artificial intelligence (AI) at Google, lots of money, lots of cameras, dress very nicely. Option 2: working in the film industry, no money, no cameras, small apartment, no sleep, lots of debt. In both options, I'm still well versed in memes.

BL: Convince Michael Alexandrovich to buy a Mac. Shoot a film. Go to Japan. Shoot a gun. Eat something with truffles at a 3 Michelin Star restaurant.

MMM: Distinctly not knowing how to do 50% of the Sound and Light final, but getting a 95%. Rearranging the room a month and a half before graduation at 3:00 AM and doing so while laughing nonstop at memes. Andriy Student Productions. Recording audio in the bathroom and editing the 1505 clash movie with Sriv. Stealing Brian's unicycle glory at talent show. Getting completely wrecked in sophomore year PowerPitch (@Xinyu @Sneha). 05 getting second in clash! Doing a massive photoshoot with Rakesh, Allison and Naomi at the end of junior year. Always, every single time, guaranteed doing better on essays the later I write them (To date, my most recent essay was started ninety minutes before the deadline, turned in ten seconds before the deadline, and got a 95. It was seven pages. I don't know how). Sitting in on a Russian class and listening to horrible Russian music with Pavel (@Greg Johnson @Michael Alexandrovich. Never again.). Unsuccessfully trying to fix the prom group photos late at night with Rakesh. Successfully clutching my entire Junior-year SIR in a week with Sam Rousser. Memorizing the Declaration of Independence for American Studies.

Writing my final, 10-page American Studies research paper for Mr. Kotlarczyk in an all-nighter the night before it was due. Bleaching my hair three years in a row for swimming.

BR: One of my biggest regrets is doing SIR senior year. Big mistake. Big waste of time. I also regret not knowing about ISP sophomore year, let alone doing it then. And now that I think of it, I really regret not getting out much all of sophomore year. And the biggest one of all, not getting to know my senior class as well as I should have. You guys are amazing, and I don't know any of you as well as I'd like to.

WWW: If you ever think you're dumb, just remember that this was my actual senior quote: <http://bit.ly/2oye0Cb>

### **Austin Choi**

MMM: Clash Talent Show this year - I hadn't really been super involved in Clash in the past, so being able to co-head an entire event, Talent Show nonetheless, was a humbling experience that I will cherish indefinitely. Science Olympiad State junior year - What's better than UIUC? UIUC when you have no obligations! Senior week sophomore year - I had the pleasure of engaging in a seven hour long Skype conversation on the day before Senior Banquet during my sophomore year, which is a conversation I won't ever forget. Building Science Olympiad tower early this year - I procrastinated on the Scioly build tryout until the night before, so I spent from midnight to six that day hot gluing small, thin wood pieces together on my desk and listening to Nujabes. It was surprisingly relaxing, and my tower wasn't complete garbage so I guess it was worth it.

BR: During sophomore year I kept to myself a bunch, rarely leaving my room and not really expanding my friend circle very much beyond my roommate and a few others through classes and such. As such, I didn't really connect with too many people at the most crucial time to do so, meaning I've gone my entire time at IMSA without having spoken at all to a sizeable portion of my class, much less have any sort of connection with them. To 2017, I'm sorry for not having gotten to know you guys better, and to my underclassmen, cherish your time with your buddies here while it lasts. It passes much faster than you think it will. On the flipside, to those of you who have dragged me out of my comfort zone and introduced

me to others, thank you so much, I appreciate you guys so much for pushing me into the water when I was too scared to take the dive myself. Also, I slept a solid seven hours a night sophomore year, midnight to seven in the morning on the dot. That began to deteriorate starting in junior year and it's to the point where I get much much less than seven hours a night (Jason, if you're reading this I'm sorry). I've even started losing fond memories of things I've done in my time at IMSA because of it, which terrifies me. Don't underestimate how much a good night's rest will do for you.

### **Ayrah Garcia**

FP: UIUC for mechanical engineering so I'm hoping I'm a mechanical engineer. I ten years? I don't care about being the best or winning fancy awards. Just give me people to love and go on adventures with and I'm set. A six figure salary to contribute to my never-ending hunger and a puppy never hurts.

BL: Go on a roadtrip for the pure purpose of food adventures. Bungee jump off of a bridge.

MMM: Study breaks to dance with Lily on Saturdays sophomore year. J-Pop Lunar dance sophomore and junior years with Lily and Vaidehi. Studying for the constitution test and watching this weird movie with Isabel and Michael. Chasing ducks with Isabel and our little sister in Ecuador. Explaining hair products in Walgreens with Michael, Grase, and Jacob. Eating pizza and cloud fluff and food coma-ing with Jacob at 1871. Being a wing guide for two years and falling asleep during dinner dates. Accidentally burning and eating a ton of marshmallows with 06B+06D. Choreographing eight seconds of group 3 filipino traditional with Aira for three hours. Breaking out into nervous giggles literally every time I perform at coffeehouse. Stress screaming on Yare with Michael during clash because talent show was a hot mess. Putting make up filters on sculptures and taking sneaky pictures of Dr. Condie pointing during the Italy intersession. Making cinnamon french toast, eggs, and bacon Saturday morning with Aira, Catherine, and Ryan. Grace Yang's birthday parties and dancing to Kpop for her because we love her. Staying up to ungodly hours talking to people because realizing we only had a month and a half left was scary.

BR: I spent a lot of time worrying. And not putting myself first. And waiting for change.

I overanalyzed every little thing and wasted a lot of time focusing on stuff that really didn't matter because at the time I thought it did. But the past is in the past and it eventually gave me the me now. I like her alot. She speaks her mind and goes for what she wants and smiles more.

WWW: It's the experience of growing with other people that makes the risk worth taking.

### **Caitlin O'Callaghan**

FP: I'm going to University of Waterloo, and will finally live in the great northern land of Canada where I will be pursuing a future in biomedical engineering. My dream job would be being Justin Trudeau's wife, but that's unlikely, so I will just keep my dreams to having fun and working in healthcare industry.

MMM: Hiding crab ragoon in the ceiling in wing commons. Making a three-person piggyback ride with Jada and Dominique. Eating dinner with friends (AKA Dinner Squad). Running around Access Road. Being pissed when doing housekeeping. Going to Popeyes for the first time.

BR: Never having a food fight at Sodexo.

WWW: Good Luck and Don't Mess It Up ~ Rupaul

### **Cecilia Chang**

FP: Working for NASA

BL: Go on a roadtrip

BR: Not getting more involved

### **Daniel Marten**

FP: Finish my undergrad and either med school or graduate school with a non-crippling amount of debt.

BL: Sub-5 Mile

MMM: My roommate timing how fast I can eat instant oatmeal. The bus ride to '16 state with cross country. Distance Tables with everybody. The Backwards Bridge (@track). My quadmate coming back from Korea with 15 KPop posters. Heading my final culture show in the booth at 2017 Lunar.

BR: Not applying myself at all sophomore year.

WWW: When life starts looking back, you just surge ahead.

### **Daniel Shin**

FP: Challenjour

BL: Keep in touch with my quad. Go to Korea with friends from IMSA. Give Shivali her Christmas present and make a bucket list with her. Have a drink with an IMSA teacher. Advance the human condition

MMM: Singing "Here Comes the Sun" with Robert as the sun rose during our first all nighter together. Winning Sophomore and Junior year Clash. Hiding with Jack Bad in 07BUQ in the bathroom sophomore year. Watching memorable videos with B-Wing. Many sleepless nights on the Summoner's Rift with **Ethan Fisher**. Performing "IT G MA". Being stand partners with Jiabao Li and pissing McCarthy off every day. Sushi night with the quad (and every other memory with them). Crying and eating chocolate with Robert Lou after junior year housing came out (and the many late nights of ramen the following year). Connect4 and Target with Shivali Shukla. When Gina fell off her skateboard and rolled fifty times. Every moment I spent with Michelle Zhu! Prom and Graduation (hopefully).

BR: Not dating Michelle sooner. Taking E&M second semester senior year. Not getting to know more people

WWW: smh

### **David Ying**

FP: Claremont McKenna College, Economics-Accounting, Consulting, Wall Street

BL: Be a good Man. Forbes 40 under 40. Reuniting with 05A in 10 years. Stay happy. Learn Arabic and French. Write Chinese.

MMM: Living with Adrian, Alex, Jae, Krishi, Pranav, Sriv, Sushil (and honorary Bing). Access walks. Homecoming 2016 and the haunted house. IMSA PowderBUFF, SWIM SQUAD, and lifting. Basketball with Belford and his car lights. Woodman's and McDonald's on weekends

Ice skating with bae. Running around hall with Ram's pillow. Hiiiiiiiiii (insert name). Requiem for a Dream, late night talks with Krishi and Alex. California with Sriv. Fox Valley Mall, Aurora Premium Outlets. Exploding Kittens and COD. Piano, La La Land.

BR: First semester junior year... but it didn't matter in the long run. Starting college apps way too late. Quadding senior year instead of starting in junior year. Not taking chances

and playing some things safe.

WWW: The happiest people are always the saddest on the inside.

### **Dhara Patel**

FP: I'm going to the University of Miami, and hopefully will stay a pre-med studying neuroscience. After medical school, I hope to become a fleet or flight surgeon for the military, travel the world, and help out bases while doing medicine. I also like rottweilers, so I would want a dog. Hopefully I'll see my **parents often**.

BL: Go hang gliding. Meet professional dancers and dance with them. Live in an apartment with "Oct". Get a rottweiler. Get taller

MMM: When dance team went to state. Super dank dance performance (2017 season). Late night dance parties with friends. Sleepovers with Natasia. Ordering food with Lizzie. SDAC Luau. RSL move-in weeks. Clash Drill! Homecoming drill junior and senior year. Carnival 2016 SDAC. Eysturlid Powerpoint all-nighter with Sruti and Heena. Diwali Modern with Herschel. Organic Chemistry with Natasia and Athena. Spain with roomies. Keurig Cave junior year.

BR: I don't regret much. At the time of the event, I may have regretted it, but now that I look back, I have no regrets. I just regret walking around sophomore year with a thick Indian accent. I thought I was cool. I was wrong. Sorry. But I'm glad you guys found it slightly funny!

WWW: "We are not Soft-02, we are Hard-02!"

### **Divya Dureja**

FP: Honestly, in the future I hope to be happy and make the people around me happy too.

BL: Meet Obama. Learn to surf. Go to Prague. Bungee jump off a bridge.

MMM: Watching Amy Yu ask Nick Rodriguez to Spring Fling. My first IMSA sleepover in Sruti Mohan's room. Any day in the studyroom with Lindy Hong. Clash ('15, '16, '17). Habitat for Humanity. JSSF. London intersession.

WWW: Don't underestimate yourself

### **Elliot Cleven**

FP: I want to research some viruses and look into viral cancer treatments.

BL: Do a kickflip.

MMM: Meeting Eshan Mehrotra, Meeting Jeet Bhalala. Meeting Sean Ngo. Going to Spain. Learning to swim. Joining a swim team. Secret romance. Meeting Calvin Zhu. Meeting Michelle Meas

BR: Joining the swim team

WWW: You don't need friends, they'll disappoint you.

### **Emma Mattson**

BL: Visit Germany. Learn to speak Italian and Romanian. Learn to play the cello. Get a cat. Eat squid.

MMM: Biophysics Table with Isabel Lee, Devdhi Kasana, Isaac Adorno, Daisy Bugarin, and Yoanna Ivanova. The entire Almost Maine Production 2015, especially conducting the Chris/Andrew scene with cupcakes after the show. Teethbrushes in MSI with Shivali Shukla. Making cookies in Bianca's oven and eating them in the back stairwell so we didn't have to share with anyone. Dancing on Yare that one night sophomore year in May, when we were beyond caring and also just loved being alive. Rare Saturday mornings at IMSA, when we slept in and ate chocolate bagels and took walks outside. 3 years of Español Estruglia with Shivali, Lisa, and Yoanna. Nadie se muere de hambre! Quad late nights junior year. Pseudo-quad senior year. Clash drill sophomore year with Meg and senior year drill with Dhara and Lizzie. Failed StudCo projects and all our Sunday night meetings. Afternoon runs outside at Allies summer camps with Phine, Megan, Faith, and Alexis. Lying on the sidewalk and talking about life and other deep things with Phine Mejias. Spending 36 hours with Meghana Kamineni one weekend sophomore year. Watching W with Phine, Megan, and Faith. "If I hear it one more time, I might be swayed..."

BR: Not talking to more people. I got to Senior year and realized that I'd only gotten to know a fraction of the frankly astonishingly amazing people that IMSA holds. Also not eating enough cookie bake.

### **Eshan Mehrotra**

FP: I'd like to major in math and physics and go to graduate school. In ten years I can see myself researching or teaching.

BL: Climb a Mountain. Motorcycle down the west coast of South America. Teach a class. Learn from a Buddhist monk. Visit Patagonia.

MMM: Winning clash. 04 hall movie 2016. The weekend before finals 2016. Intersession 2015. Lou Mitchell's. Bed talk. Ecuador trip. MI4 problem sets. JSA Fall state 2014. Countless late nights in the quad. Searching for food with 04D down and A down. Dance battling Paul. Carnival 2015. Lunar 2017.

BR: Being too reserved

WWW: Life is too short for any but the greatest books

#### **Evan Sun**

FP: After I graduate college, I'm going to get out and travel around the world. I hope to someday work for the World Bank to participate in initiatives such as the Punjab agricultural irrigation system renovation. And by the time I'm 30, my dream is to start my own biotech company with a product that will advance the human condition.

BL: Skydive. Attend Burning Man. Travel to each of the seven continents. Start my own company. Visit the Great Barrier Reef

MMM: Late night Maggi parties. Clash 2017. Bij Baj Impromptu Music Sessions. Sure thing! Cramming curriculum and teaching two intersessions. Facilitating eleMEnt. Making 120 packs of ramen for Kanban. Modern Physics tour of FermiLab. 3 AM Pokemon Card battles. Snowball fights on 05 slabs. Gallop Gate. VisMed3D. Dumpster Gate. Moderating the Sibling Program ask.fm.

BR: Not spending more time with the people I care most about.

WWW: It's easy to focus on the stream of life without appreciating the water around you.

#### **Eve Adami**

FP: My dream job would be to own a clothing company that makes eco-friendly and fashion forward clothes. Next year I am attending Carnegie Mellon University. I'm not entirely sure what I will be majoring in because I enjoy being difficult and want to study fiber science (or some sort of science that could help me reach my goals) and fashion design, neither of which CMU specifically have. But I can make it work! In ten years I hope to be residing in a city with my Italian Greyhound named Susan.

BL: Dye all my hair pink. Become a skateboarding master. See giraffes in the wild. Attend New York Fashion Week. Meet Taylor Swift

MMM: Every night we spent two hours eating dinner in Sodexo.

BR: One of my biggest regrets is quitting math team after the first intimidating meeting. Another is constantly neglecting my non-school related interests because I always had homework or something to study for.

WWW: Once you've spent time focusing on yourself, helping others becomes much more efficient.

#### **Grace Park**

FP: Finding and pursuing what I'm passionate about and being content.

BL: Get a tattoo, Finish 1000 cranes, Learn sign language, Times Square for New Year's, Visit all 7 continents

MMM: Rongzhen and my "Babe" Theory. Opening the Quad door with Barbara's body slam. Going sledding on the snow day with our flip flops. Trying to maintain "Quadbod". Breaking Sagar's glasses during Movement and Relaxation, while doing a Downward Dog competition. Mad Props during SLD Week. LEAD interviews with Rebecca Calvillo's memes. Top 16 at the Tennis State Tournament with Psharms! Getting caught for in room everyday during intersession. Senior Clash and festivities afterwards. Hanging Jenny's stuffed animals to the ceiling. Eating 237 hot chili peppers with Abrar during Diwali. Playing in the rain during Luau. Taking 5 hours to color a picture with Sachin during RFL. Every phone and Skype call

BR: Doing the minimum and not getting to know people

WWW: You do you.

#### **Harsh Singh**

FP: I want to travel around the world, buy a beautiful Tesla, and make enough money to do as I please.

BL: Skydive. Get Married. Visit every continent.

BR: Girls

WWW: Don't live your life in fear and regret. Bounce back and move forward.

#### **Hector Correa**

FP: Plan to get my Master's Degree, see as much of the world as possible, enjoy life to the fullest, experience lots of new things, and never stop learning.

BL: Travel the world. See the northern lights. Go skydiving. Get better at guitar and piano. Get in shape.

MMM: Clash and tortilla flipping. Breaking IMSA baseball's losing streak. Living in a quad for two years. Gambling is good. Many firsts. The Declaration of Independence. The Trilogy. Dr. Noah Prince's Last Lecture. Ish's Last walk. Jason in 04C with a soccer ball. Living in 04D. Martial Arts. Apple Juice. A duet with Austin Choi interrupted by Dr. Dahleh. Countless hours spent with friends.

BR: Not being more social during sophomore year.

WWW: Learn from your mistakes quickly and don't let bad experiences hold you back.

#### **Heena Srivastava**

FP: Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism.

BL: Go to Burning Man. Shower in a waterfall. Drive across America from coast to coast. Win a Pulitzer or something. Teach.

MMM: Summer 2015 (SIR, fambam, SLD Week, Allies, ĀAASHTY Lil B). Diwali Script 2016. Humans of IMSA. Hawaii Intersession 2016. Junior year dinner date with Chris Ni. Playing catch with Ashrita Raghuram. Throwing apples with Sagar. Every moment with Jin Komerska, Andrew Adams, and Harith Alappat. Being Junior Marshal. Watching fireworks with Akash Palani. Fall State 2016. Discussing Plato's Republic with Dr. Eysturliid. Taylor Bennett concert. Ordoñez BC3 table. Winning 1502 Talent Show 2017. Any moment past 1:00 AM with the best Quad/Oct on campus.

BR: Not calling my grandparents or parents more often after I left. Worrying about pleasing or impressing other people. Asking Aneesh Kudaravalli to teach me how to Pennyboard.

WWW: You have the best self-discovery when you do things on your own.

#### **Herschel Gupta**

FP: The biggest thing is for me to be happy. I don't care where I end up, but I need to be happy wherever I am. I would hope that I am doing my residency somewhere and ready to become a doctor. I would hope that I would have met the girl of my dreams and that soon, if not already, be married. Again, most importantly, I need to be happy.

BL: Skydiving. Be on a Dance Team in College. Get married and have kids. Not turn into an inactive Indian uncle. Travel around the world with my family.

MMM: Being hung out the window by my Downquad. Being Dragged around 07 in a Christmas Bag by my Downquad. Winning Clash of the Halls my sophomore year. Senior Game during Clash. Watching our drill come together for Clash our senior year. Scoring 29 points at home during my Senior Basketball Season. My Late Night talks with Geronimo Garcia. Dancing and Singing with Aakash and Ram to random music. Dodgeball in 07. Sophomore year Diwali Boys Dance. Diwali Modern. Going through the ceiling to get back into my wing. Football on Yare. Beginning of sophomore year when everyone was in my room jamming out to music. Bus Rides back from Basketball with Jae, Pranesh and Faris.

BR: Missing Game winning shot on Senior Night. Dropping contact with a lot of my friends Junior Year. Ignoring some of the people that I really care about.

WWW: No matter how many people tell you, IMSA Experience > Grades.

#### Hieu Nguyen

BL: Visit every state, road trip style. Write a good OST for a good movie. Reach a million pokes with someone on fb.

MMM: Poking everybody on facebook and in real life. Changing our Clash color to orange because we could. 7-hour skype call with Austin the night before graduation. SNOW DAY. First real all-nighter with Justin the night before IMSAloquium. Learning rudimentary bboy for Casa de Alma 2k15. Ejecting frozen objects from the window at 2 am with Justin. Senior week as an underclassman and not having homework. Skipping rocks on no pond to pass time. Stacking cups super high in sodexo (like n+1 high). Arranging and performing piano/cello duets with Madison for Lunar. PSYCHO4. Sakura7 and crying lots of real tears after our last Clash pep rally. Relearning how to play the recorder for 07 talent show. Hieu and the Dizons's coffeehouse debut.

BR: If there's one thing I wish I could take back from IMSA, it's a more normal sleeping schedule and a better work ethic. Before, I was such a diligent student, going to bed before ten most nights and doing homework the day it was assigned, but now those are very alien concepts. I can't remember the last time I slept before midnight, or the last time I finished a paper more than 3 hours before it was due. College will be an interesting time but hopefully I can get myself back on track when it comes around (or find some friends to procrastinate with, either one works).

WWW: Ask and you will receive. Sometimes you'll have to wait for it.

#### Isabella Spinelli

FP: I plan on majoring in violin performance with a minor in composition or some other academic musical field. I'd love to play in a professional orchestra and teach in a university or conservatory as well, eventually.

BL: Perform at Carnegie Hall. Have a composition performed. Play on a Stradivarius violin at least once. Be interviewed by someone. Make a difference in someone's life

MMM: IMSAloquium 2016. Election night 2016. Intersession 2015. McCarthy concerts. Luau 2016. Senior banquet 2016. Sophomore move-in day. Junior move-in day. Thanksgiving Dinner 2016. Duets and mock auditions with Neil Wary. Problem solving and US Gov. picnics with Tara Parkman. Scrambling for room inspects with Lucy Liu. Balling with Kiersten Lofton

#### Jacob Hortsman

FP: Quite frankly, I should have applied to the US Naval Academy last Autumn. In the short term, I want to get myself there. Further down the line, my greatest fear is that the world will change and I won't be there to take a grab at the wheel, so y'know, putting myself in line to conquer the world after ten years seems like what I'll be doing. I've never been flashy; I don't expect to be the world's dictator. But expect some covert, illuminati stuff coming out of Jacob's corner.

BL: Join the Navy. Return to the Philippines and learn Tagalog. Learn how to Box like Manny Pacquiao. Make Wang Laoshi proud at least once (might never happen). Conquer the World then retire.

MMM: Moving into 04 and thinking "Dang, I wish this place can be cool like 07". The Incident and breaking my wrist playing dodgeball. Don Dosch giving me the best life advice. Getting the text from Tommy after he dropped out. Meeting Shawon and having him push me during my Questbridge application. Seeing the 04 wings get crazier and better every year. Anytime we were shirtless in 04D wing. Sneaking into special meetings and luncheons and meeting people who changed my life. Late nights in MJ's room. My birthday celebration in the quad. Lifting Ethan Up after Talent Show 2017. Seeing Aira Peregrino ascend to God levels at Pep Rally. Winning Clash with the best guys on campus. Getting ready to move out of 04 and thinking "We did it" (see #1). Most importantly: Being an RSL and helping people through their darkest times at IMSA.

BR: I wish I asked more questions! And sat in on more classes during free mods! And spent more time with the God-tier teachers we have.

WWW: SCIA taught me you can get away with anything if you're wearing a suit and smile ;).

#### Jair Powell

FP: Clinical Toxicology Research

BL: Run in college. Run in the Alps. Write some political theory. Try eating/cooking molecular gastronomy

MMM: Chicago trips with Malik, Stoyan, Dan, & Jack. Core with Istvan. Distance table. All cross country and track seasons. 4x800. Cards, Quiplash, and roast sessions with Stoyan, Malik, Istvan, Jack, Caden, and Goutam. Talking politics with Jack. Clash 2017. Clutching programs and dees with Sohum. CW shows with Andrew. Sunday 10 miles with Dan Marten, Dan Soto, Miron, Daniel Chen, & Jake. Stairwell basketball with Stoyan, Malik, and Dan. The birth of "Fluorine." Accidentally breaking Steve's elbow junior year with Malik. Late night memes with Istvan and Stoyan.

BR: Not doing track sophomore year.

WWW: The strength of the wolf is the pack.

### **Jan Mangulabnan**

FP: Be successful, win a nobel prize, and die happy.

BL: Travel to all seven continents. Get super good at makeup. Get a tattoo. Dye my hair a fun color. Live in a different country.

MMM: Rush intersession. April 10th. Hours spent in B-wing study room not doing homework. Being Co-CDs with Amy Liu. 03B(est)-Wing. Sleeping in 1508 all of first semester senior year. Pulling an all-nighter with Nikitha to finish Clash profile pictures. Directing the Lunar New Year show and choreographing with Tim. Best girl's hall for senior Clash. 03 crazies!

BR: Not taking advantage of all the opportunities given to me.

WWW: Taste your words before you spit them out.

### **Jasmine Shi**

FP: A steady and well-paid job.

BL: Adopt a pet. Food tour around Asia. Learn to another language fluently. Take a social risk. Have 100 posts on Instagram.

MMM: Gyang goose chase. Making mochi for JP2 with Baylee and learning about my low heat tolerance. Lunar Junior and Senior years. Attempting to make pancakes without butter or oil with roomie. First time to the temple with roomie. Clash 2017. Starlight. Blasting the saxophone. Going to IHOP the first time and creating a hit-list with Grace Yang and roomie. Creating a bubble tea "cult" for UIUC Class of 2021.

BR: Not reaching out of my comfort zone and trying harder in classes or talking to teachers outside of class for help during sophomore year.

WWW: 寝る.

### **Jason Barraza**

FP: I plan on going to the University of Miami, majoring in Neuroscience and possibly business as well and have at least a 3.8. I will go on to Med School, preferably Johns Hopkins and then become a surgeon. In 10 years, I see myself in residency, saving lives and learning along the way.

BL: Go sky diving. Party hard. Have a family. Cure Parkinson's. Travel the world/Study abroad.

MMM: Conversations with Minerva. Doing Insanity workouts with Ish at 2 am. Almost

Almost getting kicked out of World in the 20th for attendance points. Alma Latina's Casa de Alma Shows all 3 years. My brother, Yamil, shadowing me, getting accepted, and moving in. SIR Struggle. Late night talks with Hector. Taco/Starbucks trips with Marcos and Barbara. Clash 2016 and Drill. Hanging out in Student Life. Meeting Palak on our way back to IMSA from Tech Stars event in Chicago. Asking out Palak on Valentine's Day. Wrestling in a room with 8 mattresses sophomore year. Late night tea with MJ. Late nights with quad and adopted quad members.

WWW: Be open minded because things happen, all you have to do is show up.

### **Jazmine Simmons**

FP: Becoming a pediatrician or a sports medicine physician and starting a family.

BL: Meet John Wall. Work as a team doctor in the NBA. Start a family with 6 kids who all play sports. Become fluent in Spanish. Study abroad.

MMM: Back to back 4 am fire alarms in 03. Winning a 4th place tourney trophy and winning a regional game. Quesadilla nights in 03A. Deri Delite and taco trips with Barbara. Basketball camp. Senior night. Dodgeball when Marcos tried to kill me. Noonball with JaRod. Tutoring SEAMS twice. Team bus rides- especially the one where I fell out my seat when coach turned abruptly. Chili night with Erin. BC study sessions after check. Baking cookies with Chris Whitehead before he left. Making cheesecake with Barbara. Wasting time in Student Life.

BR: Waiting too late to get to know people.

WWW: Life is about doing things that don't suck with people who don't suck.

### **Jill Nelson**

FP: For the next 4 years, I am looking forward to exploring Pittsburgh, studying BME, and running Varsity cross-country and track for Carnegie Mellon! In college, I want to start training for longer distance running, ultra-marathons and continue practicing hot yoga. After college, I hope to graduate from medical school and find a job. I would love working as a physician or surgeon, ideally in a big city that I can explore. Throughout my life, I want to travel the world, see new things, be active, and go on all sorts of outdoor adventures.

BL: Run a 100-mile Ultra-Marathon. Go skydiving. Be a physician for "Doctors Without Borders". Hike the Appalachian trail. Spontaneously travel the world and backpack South America.

MMM: Running at the state cross country meet. Crawling out the window for a morning run with Caitlin and Dominique. Sleeping on Caitlin and Katrina's floor for a week sophomore year. Having a fantastic SIR. Cross country. Being CD junior year. Pre-race tea parties. Late night walks. Getting lost on long off-campus runs. Mr. Smiley, Buff Calves, and PAP. Finding great ways to procrastinate. The SIR bus getting stopped by Trump protests. Nighttime snow adventures sophomore year (and running off of "No Pond" when it cracked). Rush intersession. Having a great quad.

WWW: Hakuna Matata.

### **Justin Xu**

FP: I honestly have no idea what I'd like to do. Throughout my life, I've had a lot of hopes and dreams that don't really persist, so I'm afraid to plan too far ahead. At the moment, I'd love to move somewhere peaceful and become a rice farmer. Or maybe an astronaut?

BL: Space Travel. Uninstall League of Legends. Become a Shaolin Monk. Learn glassblowing. Live somewhere scenic.

MMM: Adi's air freshener fiasco. The infamous macarena. 05's big and unexpected Clash comeback. Lifting and huge gains with Wasan. Brice Wang's fitness center return. Forks are in the bag @Sam Murphy. Sophomore move-in day. Chris Rogers' SCC speech. LEAD with Naren. League during OOP with Ayan. Halo nights with Naren, Alan, and Paul. Extra caffeine coffee brewed with Monster. Frozen bananas and the peanut jar. Relay for Life and deep talks.

BR: To be frank, the one that stands out most is probably also the most generic. I really do feel as if I could have been a better friend and kept in touch with people, or sorted issues out rather than ignore them. I had plenty of opportunities to grow closer to existing friends, but I was blind to most of them.

WWW: Mediocrity is contextual.

### **Karolina Podsada**

FP: Survive MIT and work for SpaceX

BL: Live in Europe for a while. Travel to every continent except Antarctica. Go skydiving. Buy a house for my parents. Apply to become an astronaut.

MMM: Clash. Prom. Seattle trip.

BR: Not getting to know more of my classmates and teachers.

WWW: Don't be lazy and waste the opportunities you're given.

### **Kasey Cervantes**

FP: I plan to find a cure for breast cancer. My plans for the future are to get my MD/PhD in Oncology. Before I do that, I would like to take a gap year and probably breakdance across the world. In 10 years, I would probably be cramming to finish my PhD thesis. Due Friday, do Friday, am I right?

BL: Go skydiving. Travel to China. Meet Barack Obama. Survive college.

MMM: When I pulled an all-nighter to write a paper for Kiely's class and realized that it wasn't due until the next day. Fire alarm during the AP Bio test. Breakdancing in the DNA Hallway. Clash, sophomore year, #FREE04. Waking up at 6:59, sprinting to the SIR bus, and making it on time. Quad Talks. Sleeping in the Hall Commons at 4 in the morning, the day of a track meet. Caroling with Austin Choi and Alcaeus Lam. Hieu Nguyen: Daisy Memes.

BR: Not spending enough time with my underclassmen.

WWW: Due Friday, do Friday.

### **Katrina Kuhn**

FP: College: University of Richmond. Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (and also possible Spanish or Leadership). Dream Job: So many! Doctor, researcher, professor, and a second career as a politician.

BL: Work in a developing country (Doctors Without Borders). Become really fluent in Spanish. Travel with friends. Write a book (even if I don't publish it). Thank everybody that's helped me get where I am.

MMM: Every week of Allies during the summers (teaching, trips, great people, etc.). Warehouse exploring with Jyotsna. Giving SCIA tours to really cool people. Radeesha living on my rug for a year. SIR (throwing phones, making snowballs, & snails and lettuce). Random roommate/quad discussions at absurd hours of the morning. Orchard trips (at

at poorly chosen times) with Ishita. Spain Intersession. Rush Intersession. Early move in's. Dinner dates as wing guide (especially the breakfast for dinner one). Dugout sitting. Clash, especially senior year. A wing sophomore year. Allies board (meetings, the people, and being the "good foundation").

BR: Not finding adults that I looked up to and trusted sooner. Letting other people's negativity about IMSA affect me.

WWW: Take care of each other and the rest will take care of itself. -Sr. Palos

### **Kayla Raffles**

MMM: Debut practice. My surprise birthday, all the "introductions", and food. My sophomore year "Senior Week" with Yugina and Allison. Every night and every sleepover in A-Down-Quad ft. Oct. The "dance night" and Careless Whisper viewing with Michelle. That one day in SIR where we **dropped our journals from the tree top**. All my dinner dates with Misha and my bad grilled cheese. Watching black mirror in 04 ft. Marcos telling us to stop at the third episode. Bridge building AKA me building Madison's Bridge while she sleeps. Baseball with my babes and our dumb sleepovers. **Living in the 05 commons and ugly as heck** snapchat filters. Fire alarm spent in the Family Restroom with Derek. When Tyson Kelly stuck a bunch of straws together and put it in his toilet so he could breathe through his toilet in case of a fire. Prom 2016 with Kevin on rainy day. Makeup on Sean x1000. Club terra "Bird Nests."

### **Krishi Korrapati**

FP: In all spheres of living, I will continue to test my limits. I expect to never find them.

BL: Find true love. Do an Iron Man. Live to be a centenarian. Go to outer-space and maybe stay. Die only when I've exhausted the world.

MMM: Getting piggly-wiggled by 07 seniors on my second day of school. Suryatej as my first roommate #JoeLongo. Sophomore sledding one cold winter day with David, Jae, Grace, and Amy on the hill behind 05. Sophomore Belford mall trip with David, Grace, Jae, Adrian when we played odds and **pranked around in Victoria's Secret**. Going to sophomore year homecoming sweaty after playing ping-pong and waxing Sam Zelman and Michael Oh (I still haven't found my paddle). Sophomore year tennis sectionals messing with the opponents in the scorching heat and getting hyped with Paul, Rajiv, Bernie, and JJ. Wrestling Mr.

Johnson in American Studies and letting him win. Getting on Sofia and Jan's bad side because my notes were beastly. Scoring the soccer team's Golden Goal in double overtime with three minutes left for our first conference win. Failed Junior-at-Large speech, which stemmed from playing "Kemps" in the 03 commons the first weekend night of sophomore year with my best friend Michael Oh against Amy Xie and Maddie Dearborn. Going to the ER at 2:00 AM with Ishmael Bew when I mistakenly thought I had a hematoma and getting White Castle afterwards. Going to Cafe Ibérico con los amigos de Español y Sr. Palos. SLD Week shenanigans with Akash and Herschel as a result of losing a bet to Nikitha, Grace, and Heena. Junior year April night when Alex, David and I bonded with our tears over girls and life, and I discovered "Atlas" by Luke Christopher. Taming MVC and "understanding it conceptually" after so many Junior year 5 AM nights with Pranav, Aakash, Sophie Kardadi, and Sushil. Night before ED decisions with David and Adrian (sorry Jae and Sriv) and that next day in general. Realizing that "burning out" really is a hoax.

BR: Dropping Computational Science (not really). I have no regrets because every decision I made (or didn't make for that matter) made me who I am today.

WWW: Follow your heart.

### **Lindy Hong**

BL: Visit every continent. Buy my parents a house. Share an apartment with friends. Celebrate Chinese New Year in China.

MMM: 02 winning talent show. Eating fire ramen for the first time with Irisa, Michelle, and Gina. Quad prank-texting Jimmy Ren at 2am. Swimming with Polina, Linnea, and Brooke for 3 years. All my talks with Divya in the study room. Finding dinner dates with Div and Amy. SIR with Michelle and meeting **Boshen and Gamze**. **Watching EXO** next door with Michelle and Irisa. Talking to Meghana in the wing commons after check. Reading The Fountainhead with Corona. Talking to Gina about everything.

BR: My biggest regrets at IMSA are not spending enough time with my seniors and not being more proactive. The seniors in my wing were honestly so amazing, and they're all doing such cool things right now. I wish I had been more outgoing and spent more time getting to know them while they were here. Everyone I've met at IMSA has an

interesting story, and I wish I'd gotten to hear more of them before I left. Junior year was really hard to get through, and I think everything would have been a lot easier if I hadn't procrastinated on everything. I always felt like I was behind and needed to do a lot of work to catch up. I wish I could have spent more time enjoying learning things in class, instead of stressing to finish my assignments.

WWW: Never let stress dissuade you from working, or failure prevent you from achieving future success.

#### **Lisa Lin**

FP: I want to study whatever I find interesting, and travel the world.

BL: Live or work abroad for an extended period of time. Find a job I live. Open a bakery. Go fishing. Catch a fish and eat it.

MMM: Deep, spontaneous conversations with friends. 36 and 120 consecutive hours of math with friends and lots of snacks. Memorizing the Declaration of Independence and immediately forgetting it. Watching all the plays come to life and having others tell me afterwards that they'd like to go see more. All of the tennis parties at Oberweis. Waking up multiple times each morning from the roomie's multiple ignored alarms. Feeding people and watching them get happier. Scrapping together a 1st place robot at Flapjack sophomore year. Meeting each new batch of wingmates. Chilling with pals and watching movies.

BR: I wish my sleep and breakfast schedule was better sophomore year.

WWW: Don't bore yourself - find something to love in all that you do!

#### **Madison Dong**

FP: This will surely change as time goes on, and in what way? Heck if I know. I want to be an editor and contributor for the New York Times and have an apartment in the city where I can walk out at any time of day, any day of the year, and stumble upon an incredible adventure.

BL: Skydive. Write something that gets published/produced. Live in NYC. Go to space. Be in really really good shape.

MMM: Junior at-Large and Convocation speeches. Bonding over NYC with Bobby. Caroling with Bijbaj. Ukulele with Andrew Adams on 02 slabs (and the rest of Senior

Week 2016). Every single moment spent in 02ADQ. Wednesday spoken word workshops with Chris Whitehead. CorruptCo goes adventuring, feat. Matt and Sagar. Finding out that 02 won Clash talent show. Relay for Life 2016 - swapping life stories with Justin Xu. Performing at Lunar 2017 parent show with Hieu and finally hitting the high note in tune. Bridge building disasters with Kayla. Bdubs with 05 Ayan, Aakash, Ram, Noble. Big beef on the 05 slabs with Simon, Sruti, Ayan. Filming and editing the 2016 homecoming video. O Hell at Condie's Trick-Taking Games Intersession 2017.

BR: Looking back, there are things I probably could have done better, but it's that combination of mistakes or missteps that have led me to where I am now, right? So then, I guess some things are mistakes, but they're not regrets.

WWW: Everything requires balance.

#### **Mariah Yelenick**

FP: In 10 years, I hope to have a Master's degree from Stanford in Data Science and work as a Data Scientist for Google. If not, hopefully I will have married rich.

BL: Visit another planet or the moon. Be employed by IMSA in some capacity. Meet the President (not Trump though). Kiss a stranger. Travel to every continent.

MMM: "Get that on a t-shirt". Aldawud's Spongebob intro. Polka-ing with Anna. Talking about Gilmore Girls with Dr. Kind and Dr. Rettburg. Matt Beauchem tipping his desk over in French I. Quad yoga. Pilates with Karolina. Portillo's with the quad. Emailing Mme. Crosby. Greg Johnson. Spring Break Seattle.

BR: Wasting time on boys. Not making more friends. Sleeping too much.

WWW: Never take IMSA for granted.

#### **Megan Estrada**

FP: To finish college, and know what I'm doing with my life.

BL: Watch a space shuttle launch. Bake macaroons correctly. Be an extra in a movie or voice a Disney character, Travel the world. Have something be named after me.

MMM: Eating a carton of ice cream in the hallway of 02D sophomore year with Yoanna, Gina, Lindy, Kate, and Shivali. Snowday! Tinikling practice and stick throwing. Abby falling into the mud while playing basketball outside of 04. Swinging

on the 02 swingset while it was snowing with Kate. Watching K-dramas with Phine, Faith, Emma, and Meghana. Playing tic-tac-toe with Hieu. Building a fort with Abby and Phine. Getting so scared during filming Ice Cream Drive that everyone ran out of the room screaming. Walking to IHOP with Abby, Grace, and Hieu. Reenacting scenes of High School Musical during wing wars. Finishing a large puzzle with Gina, Lindy, and Kate during intersession week and then hiding the finished thing in our room so we could glue it together. Goofing off in choir and not knowing the right notes to sing. Countless games of Egyptian Ratscrew. History of Astronomy with Faith, Walker, and Ethan. Movie nights with Abby and Kate.

BR: Not talking to more people in our class.

WWW: Never underestimate yourself or your ability...especially when something is due next mod.

#### **Meghana Kamineni**

BL: Go to Thailand. Find a career that I really love. Go on a road trip without any plan of where to go. Climb a building and stay on the roof until the sun rises. Learn how to dance.

MMM: Clash Pep Rally Sophomore Year. Number Theory with Claudia and Christy. Early move-in Junior year. Decorating my room for Christmas senior year. Drinking mango smoothies and watching Asian movies with Kami, Faith, Megan, Emma, and Phine. Celebrating birthdays with so many desserts. Walks around Access. Lying outside on the grass for hours during a five day math modeling contest junior year with Corona, Lisa, and Fiona. Late night talks with Emma and Phine and others with Gina and Lindy. Winning talent show for Clash senior year. Wasting time in the loft with Shriya and Priya.

BR: Not getting to know my upperclassmen well sophomore year.

WWW: One day or day one. You decide.

#### **Michael Dizon**

FP: I'm going to be a bio major at Washington University in St. Louis. After that I have no idea. In the future you'll probably see me playing the piano, hanging out with friends, and living somewhere far away from downstate Illinois.

BL: Skydiving, without dying. Kayak through caves. Graduate from college. Go on

a road trip with friends. Achieve the degree of financial stability required to care for two dogs.

MMM: Geometry study sessions in A151. Geronimo Garcia yelling "Group 1A on sticks!" for Filipino traditional sophomore year. The Flapjack Challenge during those three weeks I was in robotics. The IMSA fridge in SI Bio (Shane, I wish you well on your startup). Yelling at Geese with Ayrah, Grace, and Jacob. Completing my own WeBWorks very efficiently. Grace Yang's birthday party sophomore year. Being a wing guide alternate and a peer tutor two years in a row. Getting the WashU college decision in the middle of Sodexo! Dancing to "Daddy" for Lunar senior year, and a trap remix of "hard knock life" for Clash senior year. Asking Daisy to Homecoming during Virology, and going to Chinatown after. Writing Philosophy essays and deep conversations with Hieu Nguyen, simultaneously. Arranging the music for 1501's talent show, and saving the whole thing from disaster with Colette and Yoanna, The debut performance of Hieu and the Dizons during coffeehouse. The 20 minutes after our class's final Clash, where everyone was crying and hugging and celebrating, and realizing we only had two months left on campus.

BR: I spent way too much of my time sophomore and junior year giving myself to other people (academically, socially, emotionally, etc.) and not nearly enough time for myself. I could have spent so much more time not getting Bs in classes or making myself happier in general. I regret a whole bunch of specific moments: a couple phone calls (five-way?), friend groups (oh god), swing set conversations (swinging makes me nauseous now), and off-campus adventures (some felt a little off-key). But I did learn from them and I'm a better person because of it.

WWW: You're the main character of your own life. Looking back, it'll make a great story.

### **Michelle Guo**

FP: I think I'm going to Northwestern.

BL: Become fluent in at least one other language besides English. Set foot on all seven continents. Try and write something decent.

BR: Letting my shyness prevent me from doing the things I really wanted to.

### **Michelle Zhu**

BL: Road trips and travel to other countries with quad. Keeping in touch with close friends. Join dance team in college. More movie nights with asiansquad123. Wake up to watch sunset with hex

MMM: Going to Gina's house with hex. Meeting Irisa when we both sat out during swim team. Nathan Errampalli's acting in Modern Theater. When Gamze caught Lindy and I sleeping at SIR but she just offered us coffee. Biking and skateboarding with Irisa around access. Corona's eyebrows and eyelashes. When Elliott called me on my birthday (also Zhu-Cleven). Jack and Daniel's bullying. When Irisa dropped the whole bowl of fresh noodles in the sink. When Gina locked quad out of wing after 9am. 2x spicy ramen with Justin Kang. Jaw dropping at the gym with Gina. Friday fest chicken wings and rotisserie chicken with Irisa and Corona. Writing "petty" on the wall in pencil with Irisa but having to erase it with baby wipes and dishwasher. First Starbucks, Jenga, ugly bear, and notes in Korean with Daniel Shin.

WWW: Time flies whether you're wasting it or not.

### **Morgan Phillips**

FP: Not dying, hopefully making some money.

BL: Travel. Be an honorary or actual aunt.

MMM: The clash Discourse 2k17. All the construction

BR: Grades. Never being in any clubs.

WWW: Join some clubs, make some memes, sleep occasionally, and try not to die.

### **Naomi Nakajima**

BL: Do an ancestry test. Try a mud bath. Get in a food fight. Learn how to fly a jet. Have a puppy

MMM: Early move in 4-square. Blowing up all the balloons for the color release with CAB and LEAD. Photoshopping contests with Walker in the IRC. Not getting last in CoTH! Dance parties every weekend with Alvina. Every lunch break at 1871, going on adventures and looking at all the showrooms. Drill practices. Hiding in the closet to scare people on the last day of junior year. Winter and senior photoshoots with Becca and Nitya.

WWW: Take risks. Be yourself. Live each day being happy. You never know when it'll be your last.

### **Nathaniel Smith**

FP: Caltech. A relevant and interesting job building a future for our successor civilization.

BL: Trigger the singularity. "Survive" the singularity intact.

MMM: Playing a computer game for 24 hours straight. Visiting Fox Valley mall and discovering Ramune. Asking Dr. Choe for the highest molarity sulfuric acid. Mr. Reginald Johnson. Getting locked out for half the day. Getting into my top college choice. Spending two days reading "The Three Body Problem". SIR presentation. Election Night 2016. Getting rejected from MIT. Spending a weekend bingeing Steins;Gate. Wandering outside late on Friday nights. Everyone's laziness in Modern Physics. Realizing viscerally that there was an end to my time at IMSA. Realizing I actually enjoyed my time at IMSA.

BR: Not studying more. Not learning more.

WWW: The time you spent seeking inspiration was time you could've spent working.

### **Nikitha Garapaty**

FP: Major in neuroscience, go to medical school, become a pediatric neurologist, do "Doctors Without Borders", cure cancer, live life to the fullest.

BL: Visit every country in the world. Doctors without Borders. Go skydiving. Write a book. Meet One Direction and Justin Bieber.

MMM: Diwali Script 2016. Winning Best Girls Hall. Pulling all-nighter with Jan to finish Clash profile pictures. Rush Intercession. SLD Week '15. Bowling Bet. Ordoñez BC3 Table. 03 Crazies. Titan 411. Diwali 2015. Clash 2015.

BR: Not talking to more people Junior year was a big regret. You don't have a lot of time at IMSA and you should make it count.

WWW: Don't spend all of your time focusing on the future or you'll miss the present.

### **Nina Denne**

FP: I plan on attending Carleton College as a member of their class of 2021, as a biology major and maybe a minor in German. In 10

years, I hope to have a PhD and be doing research in biology, maybe botany.

BL: Getting a PhD. Getting a tattoo. Going to every continent. Getting a cat. Swim in a sea or ocean.

MMM: Lunar New Year. Holi, last year and this year. Finding a random shopping cart and taking it through all the halls. Finding out 02 won talent show. Filming 02 hall trailer. Going hall hopping with friends. Sleepovers and hanging out in 02ADQ. Getting asked to prom. Clash Drill. "Helping" Natalie dye her hair. Going to London as an intersession trip. Getting into college and celebrating with friends. Practicing for Kayla's Debut. Forming Club Terra. Hanging out in 03BDQ and watching netflix with Tasha. Lab Party at the end of summer SIR. EXCEL Tutoring

BR: My biggest regret is not trying to get involved in more new things and branching outside of my comfort zone, especially sophomore year.

WWW: "Forgive me for my wrongs, for I've just begun" -Skrillex & Rick Ross

#### **Nitya Talasila**

FP: Impact the world, and work to my fullest. Contribute the most I can to my major, and explore medical technology in my undergrad. On top of all of this, be happy.

BL: Accomplish something that helps 10 or more people in the world. Buy my parents a really nice car. Be invited to give a talk or lecture somewhere. Meet Prabhas. Go to Switzerland

MMM: Walking in the rain with anyone. 06 getting 6th place at Clash. Sprinting across the bridge to get to Rebecca and Naomi, and the endless memories with them. Rohit shaking trees so it rains on me. Jumping off of the bridge for a math quiz. Playing with pillows in 08 with Aakash, Rohit, Rebecca, Robert and Akash, and later having Brenda confiscate them. Running barefoot in the snow with Rebecca when she made Harvard. Move-in week all three years. Putting on boys dance and dancing on stage with Aakash while lunar was cleaning up. Late night giggles with Samita. All of the fun filled 03 visits. Walking trips with anyone. MCB with Deepshika, Nikhita, Akash, and, of course, Don. Screaming 'BOB' at October under any circumstance. Eating the leftover pani puri mix and chips with ISA Board after Holi.

WWW: Don't be so serious, life is not a race.

#### **Priya Sharma**

FP: Graduate college, knowing what I am doing and happy with what I will be doing.

BL: Skydive. Go on a friends road trip. Do at least 3 mission trips

MMM: The night before first semester finals sophomore year. Qualifying for State junior and senior year. Tennis senior night '14, '15, and '16. Homecoming 2016. The "post-MAD" Orchard trip (and all the other ones). BC2 nights with the Snarky, Spoon, and Liar in our room. All the random conversations in **Graphic Novels. Intersession Week 2015.** Discovering Jake's Bagels with BELLAs. Clash '15,'16, and '17.

BR: Not going to Sodexo enough.

WWW: Don't compare yourself, everything happens the way it should happen.

#### **Raghuram Koganti**

FP: Become a doctor. Go to Switzerland. Eat chocolate and ski. Party.

BL: Get better at gymnastics. Read more books. Go to Switzerland: skiing and chocolate. Dunk a basketball: unlikely but would be very cool. Go to one of those fancy restaurants where they make your meal in front of you.

MMM: Playing Ultimate Frisbee on the first day with my wing. All the birthday parties we used to have sophomore year. All the dances over three years. Running outside to the playground barefoot while it was raining on a weekend night with Sriv, Jae, David, and more. Getting caught for in-room the first time I tried breaking it 2nd semester. Watching a horror movie for the first time and then never ever watching one again. Tennis conditioning. Clash and Drill. 3 years of Diwali fun and the afterparty this year. Quadding junior and senior year. Watching Kevin Hart shows with Anmol and Ayan. **Being a Junior Marshal. Playing the almond game every now and then with Aakash.** Watching soccer games with Pranav. Good football games on Yare.

BR: I wish that I could have told myself to stop worrying about everything and smile a little more.

WWW: Amor Fati.

#### **Ramya Lakshmanan**

FP: I have many plans and aspirations for the future which begins with college.

College will be the place that shapes where I will be in 10 years so I plan to make the best of it. My dream job would be an engineer and I'm not sure where I see myself in 10 years. I'm honestly just focusing on right now.

BL: Go to Finland. Go Bungee jumping. Go to a Cubs game. Go on a road trip across the country. See the Aurora Borealis

MMM: Meeting my roommate for the first time. My last Holi. Spain Intersession and Sr. Palos. Fun times with Quad at 3 in the morning. Diwali. Clash all three years. Pranking Quad.

BR: Not talking to enough people sophomore year.

WWW: Listen, smile, agree and then do whatever you were going to do anyway.

#### **Richard Osmund**

FP: I want to have a job that I find validating, and live in a large city.

BL: Spend significant time outside of the country. Get abs. Live in a major city

MMM: Clash 15, 16, and 17. Lifting the Clash trophy. Breaking the IMSA Boy's soccer win record. Geology. Being Soccer Captain. Late nights with Seal Team D Wing. Scoring two goals in one game. The intervisitation chair. The 04 and 05 bridge. Habitat for Humanity 2017.

BR: Waiting so long to really put myself out there.

WWW: If you go through life with a contingency plan, you'll always need it.

#### **Robert Lou**

FP: I'm not sure what I want to do, but I want to stay close friends with my roommate, Daniel Shin.

BL: Music Festival. Road Trip with Friends

MMM: Ordering two 2-liters of coke and pulling an all nighter after Clash 2014. Peeling the onion at SLD 2015. Mad props at the end of 2015-2016 LEAD. Drinking tea with Andrew Adams in the dark. Check every day sophomore year. Dying my hair in the bathroom at 2 AM. Singing in the wing commons with my sophomores. Getting messages from Daniel saying "Are you in the room? :)"

BR: Hurting a close friend.

WWW: Be Proactive! You can't wait around for life to do everything for you!

### **Rohit Mittapalli**

FP: I'm going to let life play it out, all I want is a happy family at the end of it all.

BL: Sky Diving. Do a backflip. Drag race in Oklahoma City. Invent Something. Go to Woodmans

MMM: Advancing to Robotics Quarter Finals. Winning Clash Junior year. Karaoke night 05 early move in. Pool Party at Midwest. Watching Ram imitate Herschel's "dancing". Pelting Herschel with Fruit Snacks early move in. Fiming 05 Clash Video. HiMCM. Breaking in room in Joey and Reid's room. Speedball with 07B seniors. Late nights with Aakash. Getting pranked by 04A DQ sophomore year. Climbing up the ladder for the first time. Watching 04 Drill 2017 Clash. Watching the CNC cut out Cha05.

BR: Meeting Yugan.

WWW: Too much of life is spent looking for wisdom, enjoy.

### **Rongzhen Zhou**

FP: I will be attending Northwestern University in the fall, majoring in Learning and Organizational Change (though that might change to Social Policy). During the next 10 years, I hope to graduate from law school, try my hand at consulting, work with non profit aid organizations, and work on education policy in DC. After 10 years, who knows? I'll see you all at our 10 year reunion and you can find out then.

BL: Live in a foreign country where I don't speak the language. Have frequent conversations (in Chinese!) with my cousins. Find a ride or die bestie to grow old with. Have a job that I love and that allows me to contribute something meaningful to society. Provide for my parents

MMM: Winning best girl's hall (and placing 3rd overall!) in my last Clash. Sleepovers with Grace and Shannon every night during sophomore year intersession and trying to fit all 3 of us on the same bed. Both SLD Weeks, especially Peel the Onion, Hotseat, and Mad Props. #happyhabifamily2k16, paint crew, and El Paso adventures. Trips to get ice cream and Mexican food with Barbara. Late night talks and memes with quad (actually just all time with them). Running around in the rain with friends during Spring Fling junior year. Spain intersession trip 2016 with my girls. Facilitating my first TRIAL module with Sarah Eaton. Hanging out in Downquad

with Heidi, Sarah2, and JPhung. Choreographing Chinese Traditional for Lunar with Simon twice. Getting tapas with Sr. Palos and friends. Spring break 2017. Rapping Justin Bieber's "Boyfriend" for a sister wing proposal. Prom 2015 & 2016 (2017 too, at least once it gets here)

BR: Not exploring more of the cool opportunities that we have (i.e. IN2, KI, etc.). Not spending enough time with friends other than quad. Not getting to know faculty and staff better

WWW: Try everything at least once (or twice).

### **Ryan Higgins**

FP: Knox College Class of 2021, majoring in International Relations. In college, I want to learn new skills such as being able to speak a third language or something else that I do not know of at this moment in time. Along the way, I hope to make new friends and new memories. Before 2027, I want to travel abroad again. Maybe even get a job in a foreign country. Hopefully I will have a good job that I enjoy 10 years from now and will enjoy afterwards.

BL: Learn How to Drive. Graduate from College. Travel Abroad Again. Get Married. Buy a Tesla.

MMM: 1 AM fire alarm Sunday before my 1st day of school sophomore year. Snow day sophomore year. Going to Russia.

WWW: Keep moving forward.

### **Ryan Johnson**

FP: More than anything else, I want to be happy. I don't know how that might be, it could be because of my job, my friends, or something else, but it doesn't matter what. Simple happiness is all I really aspire to attain.

BR: Not asking for more rounds from teachers.

WWW: Second semester senior year is going to go by fast. Don't waste a single day.

### **Sagar Nattuvetty**

BL: Go to space. Become 6'0". Join a professional dance team

MMM: Killing Gerald and my speech for Senior-at-Large. Winning 04 Drill 2017. The Incident 2016. The night Matt slept over in 04ADQ. When Josh Kleinman poisoned me with his bathroom liquid concoction. The nights I slept on the two black beanbags in

04ADQ sophomore year. Walking trips with Matt and Madison. CorruptCo. Performing Modern for Diwali and Lunar. Ayan trying some blazing sauce at BDubs. My last night with Harith, Isaac, Nick, Reid, Joey, and Josh at IMSA. Calculated memes with Aakash, Ayan, and Ram. "Junior" Prom with Heena. Waking up for my MI3 final late. Not doing computational science with Noble and AJ in 04CUQ.

BR: Not getting Simon and Tim to move into the quad earlier.

WWW: Never lose sight of those who matter to you.

### **Samantha Murphy**

FP: I want to become a doctor, hopefully a surgeon, and travel with Doctors Without Borders or another organization to underdeveloped francophone countries and provide medical services. I also want a family with kids and many big dogs.

BL: Skydiving. Climbing sleeping bear dunes. Successfully eat a whole pizza by myself

MMM: Holi. Prom 2016 and the promposal. Away volleyball games with boys volleyball. Rearranging our room like 6 times a year. Clash (of course). Sitting in upperclassmen rooms. 2 hr dinners in Sodexo. Watching cultural shows. The feeling of relief after finishing an essay and finally going to bed at 4 am.

BR: Spending too much time before 10 check on homework.

WWW: Man, I don't know, just try.

### **Samita Shrestha**

FP: Go to college and graduate with as little debt as possible. Use all my resources in order to succeed in BME. Me in 10 years? Single, with three dogs. Working hard.

BL: Learn Nepali. Learn how to solve a rubix cube. Make a better bucket list

MMM: Waking up with a fever on move-in day. Losing my voice before classes started. The Constitution. Naps on the Junior Couches. Sophomore Year Cross Country. My first all-nighter. Up+Down Quad Ramen party at 1:00 AM. Staying up all night watching "3 Idiots" the night before sophomore move-out. All three years of Clash. Finding out how fun dancing is sophomore year Diwali. Pepband. Tinikling battle wounds. College Acceptance celebrations + tears. Ramen.

BR: Not talking to more people and not being more involved. If anything, I regret things that I didn't do more than dumb things that I did do.

WWW: Take planetary science. You'll find that the world doesn't revolve around you.

**Samuel Okoli**

FP: To turn a certain story into a successful franchise.

BL: Travel the world. Try hip-hop. Try parkour. Visit the many religious sites of the world. Talk to my inspirations.

MMM: EXCEL 2014, 2015 and 2016. Track Sectionals 2016. Living three years with Kyle Feliciano.

BR: Not pursuing my passions productively while at IMSA.

WWW: Never settle for all as it is; aspire for all as it should be.

**Shivali Shukla**

FP: Go to UIUC, pursue medical school, and someday work in a big-city hospital.

BL: Go to an NBA Finals game. Volunteer in a foreign country. Road trip with friends across America. Publish a book. Catch a ball at a Cubs game.

MMM: Last day of junior year with Gina and Daniel. Luau junior year and walking in the rain. The 05 slabs party after Diwali senior year. Late nights with Sneha. Long talks with Gina. Allies camps with Ramya. The night sophomore year Kate and I spontaneously ran to and slept in Yoanna and Megan's room. Homecoming sophomore year. Target and Connect4 with Daniel. Running an intersession senior year. Intersession in Chicago junior year. SIR at Northwestern. Being EIC of The Acronym.

BR: Not believing in myself until it was too late.

WWW: You are 10x more capable than you think.

**Simon Su**

FP: Maybe a doctor? Maybe finance? I tell people I want to be the Surgeon General as a joke, but being in charge of the public health of all Americans seems like my kind of wild.

BL: Move to a very large city (NYC, DC, Shanghai, Toronto etc.). Go deep sea diving. Become first name basis friends with

Obama. Get a Tibetan mastiff. Go on a tour around South America (diarios en motocicleta style) @akash @yugan.

MMM: El Incidente. The lunar grind, especially lunar 2017. 12/19/16 + 02/03/17. Bfriend. Winning Clash, but also "going full potato" and psycho4. D-Wing study room, and the times I slept on Frankie's chair. B-down 2015. All three senior weeks and the random walks and the orchard trips and the late nights. C-down 2016 and the wall, 3 AM ramen parties and definitely sleeping on Amy's couch. Sleeping on Tim's floor and beating spatel3 with a pillow. Punching Tim in the ear twice on accident. Winter congress 2017. Peru + DR + Ecuador. Running in the rain after luau 2016. All the hex times.

BR: El incidente. Choreographing chinese traditional sophomore year. Winter formal 2015. My cousin.

WWW: Dood, just zoom in!

**Sneha Pathuri**

BL: Go parasailing. Meet Beyonce. Travel Europe.

MMM: Luau. Holi. Late nights with the roomie. Move in day room decorating.

BR: Not taking MVC. Not applying for LEAD.

WWW: Everything happens for the best.

**Soomin Park**

FP: Work at CERN.

MMM: Christoffel symbol.

BR: Sophomore year.

WWW: Zoom in.

**Sruti Mohan**

FP: I will be spending the next four years at University of Wisconsin Madison, studying neuroscience, and I hope to become a researcher or maybe a doctor after graduate school or medical school.

MMM: Running through the rain during 2016 Luau. The "Pants are Dumb" Movement. SLD Weeks 2015 and 2016. Every concert with Madison. Taylor Bennett with Akash, Heena, Alhan, and Yugan! "20 minute naps". Coffeeshouses. "How to Delete

Your Twitter Permanently". CORE modules with the one and only Josh Kleinman. Clash 2017 Talent Show. Espanoomies. Jamming with BQUAAKKK. Diwali Group Dance. Late Nights with Oct + Sophs. The Scam of Move n' Relax.

WWW: Never regret the late nights.

**Teddy Khan**

FP: After undergraduate education, I want to go to graduate school to study Virology and eventually work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BL: Scientific research in a foreign place (Galapagos Islands or Antarctica). Go cage-free diving with sharks. Zip line.

WWW: If you're going through hell, keep going.

**Tim Pan**

FP: Hopefully, I will be a doctor working in the city. I would like to work patients while still keeping smiles on their faces.

BL: Skydive. Travel around the world. Doctors without Borders.

MMM: Dancing at Carnival. Beatboxing with Roy in Pearson Lecture Hall. Winning Clash of the Halls twice. Staying up with the quad talking about random stuff until 4 in the morning. Breaking in room almost every single night sophomore year. Holi. When Oberweis still delivered, having ice cream parties with friends. Staying for senior week and looking at stars with the alum.

BR: Not getting to know people as earlier as I could have

WWW: The one person's opinion that should matter in your life is your own.

**Timothy Ramos**

FP: Be happy and get big.

BL: Cliff Diving. Color Run.

MMM: Clash all three years. Winning Clash/Drill 2017. Habitat for Humanity 2017. Hanging with Ish in the office. April 10th 2016. Every moment in 04. Every moment with Robert during volleyball. Making Herschel and Jae do volleyball with me senior year.

BR: Not pursuing my passions enough.

WWW: Why not you?

#### **Vadini Agrawal**

FP: Hopefully, in 10 years, I'll be settled down somewhere and will enjoy whatever job I have (at a big tech company) and I'll be able to provide for my family. I also hope to still be in touch with my family friends and other friends, as well as my culture.

BL: See Lana Del Rey live, and meet her. Go on a big roller coaster. Visit somewhere remote in Southeast Asia. Be on the cover of a magazine.

MMM: Walking around in the rain during Luau junior year. Pizza with friends after pep rally junior and senior year. Diwali. Spontaneous Orchard trips. Summertime train rides to SIR/Internship. Chicago Intersession junior year. All decorations for Clash senior year. Holi. Late nights with the quad.

BR: Not getting to know more underclassmen, letting friendships slip away, and not challenging myself more.

WWW: Always go for it, because if you don't, you will regret it.

#### **Vaidehi Suriyanarayanan**

BL: See the world. Learn a new language. Become a doctor. Learn how to cook. Pay back my parents for everything.

MMM: Making a talent show for 06 that I was proud of. Breaking in-room in 06BDQ+. Random karaoke with Jasmine. Playing cards for hours during Allies in the summer. Breaking so many beakers in Organic Chemistry. Drama binges with Lily. Watching Produce 101 with Jasmine. All the Chicago trips. Going to Italy. VaiDaisy adventures. Japanese trio dance during Lunar. Clash 2015, 2016, 2017. My laptop getting covered with orange juice along with my backpack. Daisy tagging me in memes. Gossiping all day with Grace.

BR: Not talking to the underclassmen as much.

WWW: Life is too short to not be happy.

#### **Vainius Normantas**

FP: I want to be doing educational consulting. Beyond that probably teaching.

BL: Climb a mountain and live on it for a week. Buy my mom a house. Be adventurous.

MMM: Singing Happy Birthday to Jan everyday. Winning Clash (after causing us to lose once). Having pink eye in both my eyes. Hypnotizing people. Cuddling with Sneh. Cross-Quad water balloon fight. Saving snow from winter until the end of the year to throw snowballs at people. Riding with Josh on the back of the security cart. Thrusting on 3. Bed talk. Being rowdy in general.

BR: GPA lol.

WWW: Do you.

#### **Wasan Kumar**

FP: In 10 years I aspire to have graduated from a Medical School, and will be in the middle of my residency. I want to live in an apartment in a city (preferably Chicago), and have a dog.

BL: Fix my hair. One or two plates. Become a Chef. Go to Japan. Learn to sing.

MMM: Popping Febreeze, among other adventures with Matt and Alex. Ziplining from C to D wing. Making the Hammock. Tussling with Alex, and Night Crawlers. Memes with C-Down Hex. The Siege(s) of 05. Clash. Organizing and Running Wing Wars. Pulling all-nighters for Hall Decs. Making the Magic Mustafa movie franchise. Dinner Dates. Paul Walker with Tim Pan. Cooking at LEAD with Adi. Going "Gandhi" for Diwali.

BR: Not trying out more new things during sophomore and junior years.

WWW: Don't give up on your dreams, instead keep sleeping.

#### **Xinyu Guan**

FP: I see myself as a professor, doing research on quantum electrodynamics, while managing startups on the side.

BL: Have one worthy patent. Start a startup. Be a good father. Code an artificial intelligence (AI). Make an app for your smartphone so it can emulate a fob and a fob reader.

MMM: PowerPitch. Foosball. Internship. SIR.

BR: Procrastination.

#### **Yoanna Ivanova**

FP: I'm gonna major in BME but my only goals are really to take every opportunity I can and see where it goes.

BL: Go skydiving. Maintain and build loving relationships. Go to Cairo. Find work I love. Learn how to cook one thing really well.

MMM: Spoons with 01A. Staying up late at both Debate States. Bulgarian Club Music. Making breakfast in the 03 hall commons. Christmas Parties. Prom at the Sears Tower. Dinner at Dr. Smith's House. Dinner and Dessert Dates as a Wing Guide. Ambling around Chicago. WE Day.

BR: Not trusting myself more.

WWW: If you can't change it, accept it. If you can improve it, don't make excuses.

#### **Yugan Sakthi**

FP: Not really sure, other than a dog of my own and a gig as a jazz drummer somewhere.

BL: Be a street musician for a day. Skydive. Fly first class. Travel, travel, and travel.

MMM: The night 1504 won Clash. The countless memories I've made with the robotics team. Watching Spiderman with Simon late at night in Ecuador. The Ecuador trip in general. Decorating for Myra's birthday with MJ, Robyn, Hieu, Jacob, and Josiah at 4 in the morning. Making ramen for all the 04 sophomores with Evan the night they arrived. Nighttime rap battles with Ben and Sam. Performing 04 drill. 1505 senior speaks the night before graduation sophomore year. 04B memories with my co Hieu. Spending time with Señor Palos. Tiger's milk (@Rakesh, Calvin, Tiger, Tom, and DJ Boots). Caroling across campus then singing around the fire pit. Singing with Sam and the Patels. Decorating for Kevin Satler's birthday sophomore year with Rakesh, Richard, Vinesh, and Guna.

BR: Meeting Rohit

WWW: Take unsolicited advice.

# *Letter from the Editors*

Dear Reader,

The Acronym, IMSA's Official School Newspaper, has grown exponentially since when the Class of 2017 first started their sophomore year. From a rapid increase of pageviews to the launching of new projects such as "The Toilet Paper", the newspaper was determined to expand and further benefit the community. One of these projects they have dedicated themselves to is the Senior Issue 2017.

The last Senior Issue published by The Acronym was in 2006. At that time, The Acronym still had paper editions, Senior Wills were five sentences long, and colored printing was infeasible. For the 10 years after that, "Senior Wills" were limited to online publishing.

This year, The Acronym wanted to give back to the seniors who have done so much for this Academy already. The Senior Issue is a token of gratitude for the Class of 2017, and a way of honoring them for all other members of IMSA. Uncover fun facts about the makeup of an Average 2017 Senior. Challenge their predictions of the future. Appreciate their favorites books, movies, and TV shows.

Utilize Senior Edition to further understand the upperclassmen who are leaving so soon. Our "Seniors Speak" articles give insight into the top concerns of the class, from mediocrity to academic departments. "Senior Biographies" show us the deepest thoughts of our Seniors and what they hold closest to their hearts.

On behalf of The Acronym staff, we would like to thank you, our readers, for supporting such a project. And now, we are proud to present, the Class of 2017...

Stay Golden,

Heena Srivastava  
Acronym Editor-in-Chief 2016-2017

Shivali Shukla  
Acronym Editor-in-Chief 2016-2017

*The Acronym would like to thank the Editors-in-Chief Shivali Shukla and Heena Srivastava, The Acronym faculty advisor Ms. Tracy Townsend, graphic designer Michael Dizon, and the IMSA News and Columns sections, including Alexis Giff, Aliah Shaira de Guzman, Aurora Harkleroad, Chandana Tetali, Eva Liu, Isabel Lee, Madison Dong, Nikitha Garapaty, Rebecca Lisk, Sneha Pathuri, and Sweta Kotha. This year's Senior Edition was only possible with their incredible hard work and dedication.*



*from the designer...*

This year's copy of the Senior Edition (the first one in eleven years!) was given life with the help of Starbucks frappuccinos from the vending machines and Adobe Photoshop (because I don't know how to use InDesign). To me, it's a thank-you note for my last three years at IMSA, the place that has given me so much: my closest friends, my fondest memories, my lowest lows, and my highest highs. I hope you have as much fun reading it as I did making it.

With so, so much love,  
Michael Dizon  
Chief Graphic Designer

