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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montgomery Blair High School Team Earns First Place at  
University of Maryland High School Programming Contest**

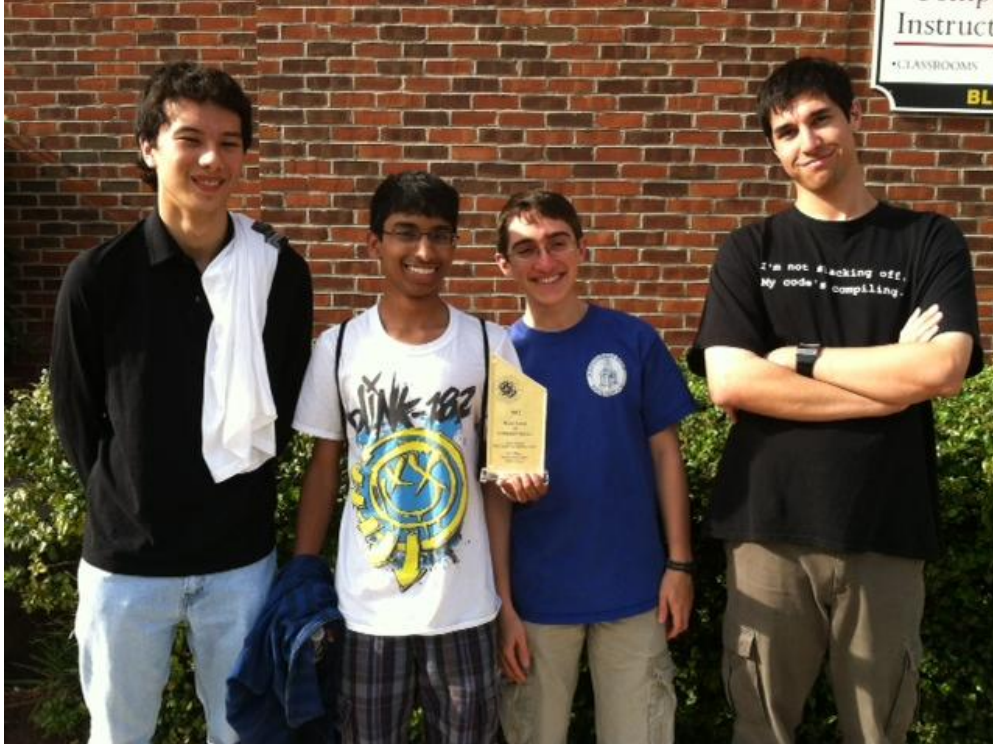
**Silver Spring, MD**—A team of four Montgomery Blair High School students, three from the school's Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, captured first place at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual University of Maryland High School Programming Contest, which was held on its College Park campus on April 21. Twenty-eight teams of four students each from high schools in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia participated in this daylong annual event. This competition tested the students' programming skills and problem solving abilities on problems including cryptology, game theory, and genetic sequencing. After a morning practice session, students were given three hours to attempt to solve nine difficult programming problems in Java on a single computer per team. Teams were judged on their number of problems correctly solved, number of incorrect submissions, and speed. The Blair team correctly completed seven of the programming problems, more than any other team in the contest. In fact, only six schools in all were able to solve at least six of the problems. For the team's win, Montgomery Blair High School was awarded \$1,800.

The 2012 Blair team consisted of Prashan Dharmasena of Rockville, David Kaufman of Chevy Chase, Frederic Koehler of Silver Spring, and Philip Sequeira of Takoma Park. Blair Magnet computer science teacher, Mr. Daniel Fowler, serves as Blair Computer Team sponsor.

This year marked the sixth time since the programming contest's inception in 1995 that the Blair team has won first place. During this time period, Blair has consistently taken either first or second place each year but one. Blair's sister program, the Poolesville High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned fourth place, its highest ranking in this competition.

Team member David Kaufman expresses his pride and gratitude, "With all of the strong teams that participated in this contest, we were really proud to come out as the winning team. We are grateful to the Magnet program and our teachers for the opportunities they have given us. My four years in the Magnet program at Blair have been fantastic."

## Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



The Blair team of Frederic Koehler, Prashan Dharmasena, David Kaufman, and Philip Sequeira won first place at the 2012 University of Maryland High School Programming Contest. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Daniel Fowler.)

### **About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation**

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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