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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Earn
Top Three Places and Full Scholarships at University of Maryland
Mathematics Competition; 17 More Earn Honorable Mention**

Silver Spring, MD—Victor Xu (11) of Rockville, Alexander Bourzutschky (12) of Potomac, and Michael Winer (11) of Rockville, all students (with grade level) of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, captured first, second, and third place, respectively, in the 2013 University of Maryland (UMD) Mathematics Competition. Each student was awarded a full four-year scholarship plus expenses at the University of Maryland College Park, as well as \$500 in prize money for first place, \$400 for second, and \$300 for third.

This contest, open to all high school students in Maryland and the District of Columbia, is composed of two parts. Part I, administered on October 23, consisted of 25 multiple choice-type questions to be completed in 75 minutes, and Part II, administered on November 20, provided five proof-type questions with two hours for completion. The 291 top scorers of the 2614 who took Part I qualified to participate in Part II. Results from both parts were then considered together to determine final overall standings.

In addition to the first through third place recipients, 38 Honorable Mention winners were named. Of these, 17 (nearly half) were Blair Magnet students (with grade level): Adam Busis (11) and Gabriella Studt (12) of Silver Spring; Matthew Das Sarma (11), Catherine Xue (11), and Alexander Zhang (12) of Potomac; Alan Du (12), Raymond Lin (10), Jingjing Xu (11), Dennis Yang (11), and Dennis Zhao (11) of Gaithersburg; Jeremy Du (10), Yi-Zhi He (12), Cynthia Liu (10), Eric Lu (10), Eric Neyman (11), Sachin Pandey (11), and Jessica Shi (12) of Rockville.

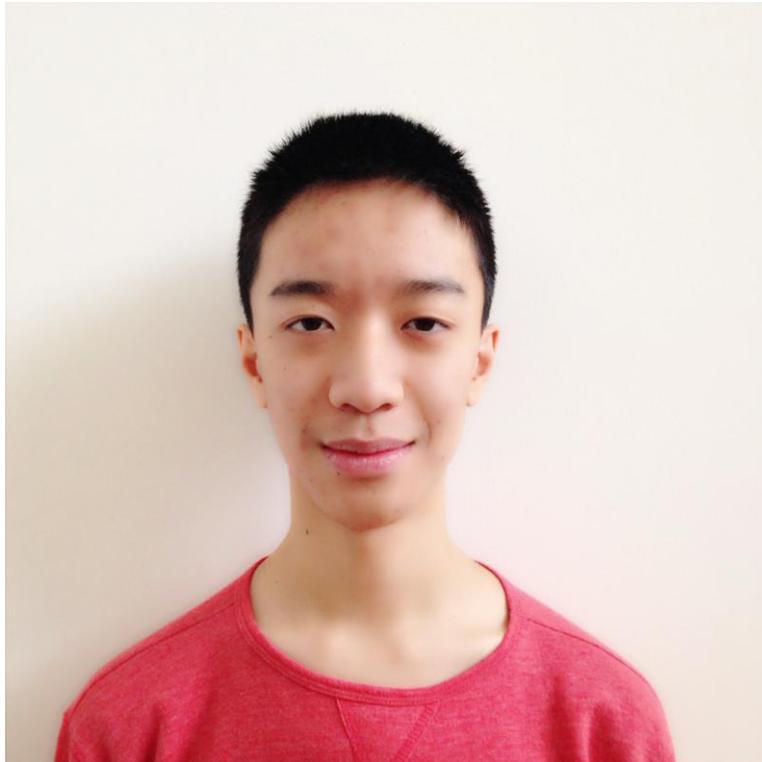
First-place recipient Victor Xu comments on the influence of the Blair Magnet, “If I did not have the opportunity to learn at the Blair Magnet, I feel that my chances of scoring in the top three at the UMD Math Competition would have been much lower. Second-place winner Alexander Bourzutschky compliments both the contest and the Blair Magnet, “This well written competition includes a multiple choice section and a proof section to test both mathematical

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knowledge and critical thinking. The Blair Magnet's traditionally strong showing illustrates its concentration of bright high school math students." Third-place awardee Michael Winer expresses his gratitude, "I am thankful that the Blair Magnet gives us the opportunity to participate in competitions, and even better that it provides us the skills, peer group, and motivation to succeed in them."

Every year since 1998, at least one student from the Blair Magnet has won first through third place (all three in 2003-2005 and 2013), and at least fourteen have been awarded Honorable Mention. Mr. David Stein, Blair Magnet mathematics teacher, sponsors the Blair Math Team and administers the University of Maryland Mathematics Competition exams for Blair students.

Mr. Stein congratulates the students and thanks the competition sponsors, "We are very proud of these three young mathematicians, as well as all the other winners. It is quite an accomplishment for Blair to sweep all three of the top places. It speaks well to the top quality math education the students are receiving at Blair. We would like to thank the University of Maryland Math Department for its continued support of excellence in math education across the state."



Montgomery Blair Magnet Junior Victor Xu achieved first place, a full four-year scholarship plus expenses, and a \$600 cash prize in the University of Maryland Math Competition. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Wei Xiong.)

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Montgomery Blair Magnet senior Alex Bourzutschky earned second place, a full four-year scholarship plus expenses, and a \$400 cash prize in the University of Maryland Math Competition. (Photo courtesy of Bourzutschky.)



Montgomery Blair Magnet Junior Michael Winer received third place, a full four-year scholarship plus expenses, and a \$300 cash prize in the University of Maryland Math Competition. (Photo courtesy of Emily Hofmann.)

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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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