



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET  
FOUNDATION INC.



Board of  
Directors:

Ted Jou  
*President*  
Eileen  
Steinkraus  
*Vice-  
President*  
Sharon  
Goodall  
*Secretary*  
Dan  
Shepherdson  
*Treasurer*  
Beth  
Kaufman  
*General  
Counsel*  
Ralph  
Bunday  
*Member*  
Sherrie  
Emoto  
*Member*  
Sarah  
Manchester  
*Member*  
William  
Martin  
*Member*  
Samir Paul  
*Member*  
Lola Piper  
*Member*  
Stephanie  
Subramanian  
*Member*  
Emily  
Yanisko-  
Maloney  
*Member*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 19, 2015

**CONTACT:** Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Team  
Earns First Place at Maryland Science Bowl Competition**

**Silver Spring, MD**—A team of Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students earned first place at the 2015 Maryland High School Science Bowl Competition, which was held at Montgomery College's Rockville campus. The team members (with grade level) include Eric Lu (11), Bendeguz Offertaler (12), and Michael Winer (12) of Rockville, as well as Matthew Das Sarma (12) and Arnold Mong (11) of Potomac.

The U.S. Department of Energy sponsors the National Science Bowl and state Science Bowls to encourage middle and high school students to excel in science and math and to pursue careers in those fields. These academic competitions involve more than 14,000 students nationwide each year. The contest involves a fast-paced question-and-answer format, where contestants solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics, and math. This year 47 teams, representing 20 schools, participated in the Maryland Science Bowl.

Montgomery Blair's first-place team will receive an all-expense-paid trip to represent Maryland at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Science Bowl competition, which will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 30-May 4. The team will compete there with more than 100 teams from across the country for the national title. Since the inception of the contest in 1991, Blair's team has ranked in the top five teams multiple times and even won first place nationally in 1999, second place as recently as in 2011, and fifth place last year. Blair Magnet math, science, and computer science teacher Mr. Tran Pham has served as the team's longtime coach.

Team member Bendeguz Offertaler comments on the team's win, "Because the Maryland Regional Science Bowl is essentially the only competition of this type that we compete in (unless we are fortunate enough to go to Nationals), every round and every question is important; a couple of missteps may cost us the opportunity to have many months' of preparation and studying pay off. Nonetheless, the predominant feeling this year was one of excitement. Our team knows itself very well. We went to Regionals and Nationals together last year, and we are hoping and

Address:

MBHS  
Magnet  
Foundation  
Inc.  
P.O. Box  
101  
Kensington,  
MD  
20895

much more ready to repeat our performance this year. Looking back on our performance at Regionals, we have much cause to feel confident.”



Maryland Science Bowl first-place team members holding their team trophy, as well as individual trophies (from left): Team sponsor Mr. Tran Pham, Eric Lu, Bendeguz Offertaler, Michael Winer, Matthew Das Sarma, and Arnold Mong. (All photos courtesy of Dr. Noemi Kedei)



Team members Bendeguz Offertaler (left) and Arnold Mong at state competition.



Team members share a discussion (from left): Bendeguz Offertaler, team sponsor Mr. Tran Pham, Arnold Mong, Eric Lu, and Michael Winer.

## **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.

###