



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Participate as Regional Finalists at Washington Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium; One Receives First Place

Silver Spring, MD—Neil Davey of Gaithersburg and Elizabeth Liu of Rockville, both of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, participated as regional finalists in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) Greater Washington, D.C. Regional Competition at Georgetown University on January 3-4. The prestigious JSHS Program promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement. It is jointly sponsored by the United States Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in cooperation with leading research universities throughout the nation and the Department of Defense.

Students from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia submitted their research papers to the JSHS Greater Washington, D.C. regional competition last fall. Georgetown University professors read through these papers and selected five students to present their research at the regional symposium. Each presentation was 15 minutes long and was followed by a question and answer session with Georgetown professors and other high school students.

Davey went on to receive first place and was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for his paper entitled “Deletion of Endonuclease G Disrupts Mitochondrial Homeostasis and Leads to Reduced Virulence in the Human Protozoan Parasite *Leishmania mexicana*,” which was completed under Dr. Sreenivas Gannavaram of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration. He will be given an all-expense paid trip to attend the 51st National JSHS to be held on May 1-5 in Dayton, OH. Last May, Blair Magnet alumna Jessica Lu ('12) was awarded third place at this national competition. Furthermore, Davey will have the opportunity to present his research again at the National JSHS for a chance of earning up to \$12,000 more in scholarship money and a trip to the London International Youth

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Science Forum to be held July 24-August 7 at Imperial College London.

Davey expresses his gratitude, “I am thankful to Blair Magnet teacher Ms. Bosse and Blair Magnet coordinator Mr. Ostrander, as well as the rest of the magnet program, for providing me the opportunity to submit my research paper to the Greater Washington JSHS. It was an honor to have been selected to present my paper at the Georgetown University symposium and especially to have been awarded first place. I am really excited to compete at the National JSHS Competition in May.”

Last month, Davey placed third nationally in the 2012-13 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology in Washington, D.C. and was awarded \$46,000 in scholarship funds to share with his research partner, Katie Barufka of Reston, VA.



Montgomery Blair Magnet junior Neil Davey was awarded first place at the JSHS Greater Washington, D.C. Regional Competition, which was held at Georgetown University this month. (Photo courtesy of Davey)

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

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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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