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**Three Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Seniors  
Named as Intel Finalists; Most for Any High School Nationally**

**Silver Spring, MD**—On January 22, Shaun Datta of Potomac, Neil Davey of Gaithersburg, and Jessica Shi of Rockville, all seniors in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named as three of the 40 national finalists of the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search by the Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers this competition. The 40 finalists hail from 33 high schools in 14 states, with Montgomery Blair High School having more finalists than any other high school in the nation. All finalists will compete for \$630,000 in awards from the Intel Foundation, including a top award of a \$100,000 scholarship. Final judging will occur in Washington, D.C. on March 11.

The three Blair finalists’ research project titles and mentors are as follows:

Shaun Datta—*Saturated Nuclear Matter in the Large Nc and Heavy Quark Limits of Quantum Chromodynamics*; Dr. Thomas Cohen, Professor and Mr. Prabal Adhikari, Graduate Student, University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Physics

Neil Davey—*Early Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Through the Detection of Circulating Tumor Cells Using Drop-based Microfluidics*; Dr. Huidan Zhang, Post-doctoral Fellow and Dr. David Weitz, Professor, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Jessica Shi—*The Speeds of Families of Intersection Graphs*; Mr. Francisco Unda, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Mathematics.

Earlier this month, Intel Science Talent Search, the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in this country, announced the names of 300 semifinalists from a pool of 1,794 entrants in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and seven overseas locations. Of these, nine hailed from the Blair Magnet. Each of these semifinalists was awarded \$1,000 for their original science projects, and Montgomery Blair High School will receive \$9,000 (\$1,000 for each of the semifinalists) to be used to further science, math, and engineering education. In the Blair Magnet Program, this original

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work represents the student's senior research project, which is overseen by magnet teacher Ms. Angelique Bosse. This research is completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university.

This is not the first year that Montgomery Blair has had at least three of the 40 national Intel finalists. Indeed, in 1993 (then Westinghouse Science Talent Search), 1999, 2002, and 2005, at least three Intel finalists hailed from the Blair Magnet, with a record six in 1999 and the national first place winner in 1996.

Intel finalist Shaun Datta credits the Blair Magnet, "I'm proud to be part of an excellent program and high school, like the Blair Magnet and Montgomery Blair High School. The Intel results are a combination of the Blair Magnet's highly able teachers and its hard-working students." Fellow Intel finalist Neil Davey agrees, "I am really honored to be selected as an Intel finalist. I would especially like to thank the Blair Magnet Program for providing me a strong foundation in the sciences and Ms. Bosse for helping me with the Intel application process. It's really exciting that we have three students from our school who will be competing in Washington D.C. this year!" Finally, Intel finalist Jessica Shi graciously adds her appreciation, "It is an honor to be named as an Intel finalist. I would like to thank all of my teachers and the Blair Magnet Program for supporting me throughout my high school years and for encouraging me in my mathematical endeavors. I would also like to thank the Research Science Institute and the Center for Excellence in Education for providing me the opportunity to conduct research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

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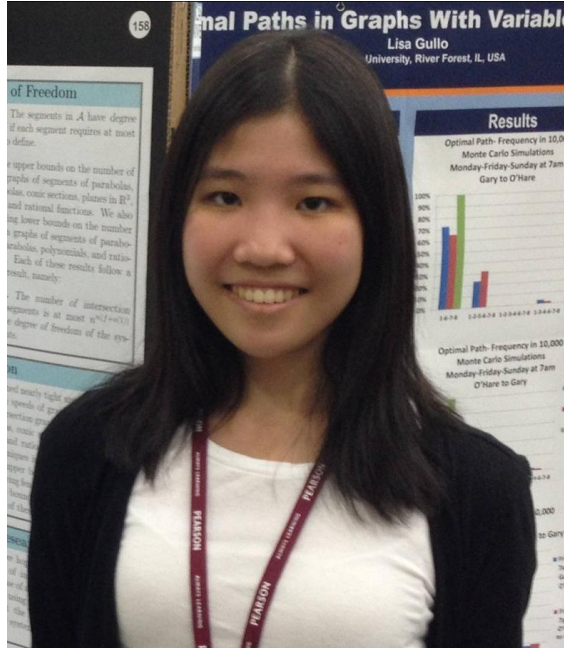


Shaun Datta, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior and 2014 Intel Science Talent Search finalist. (Photo courtesy of Datta.)



Neil Davey, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior and fellow 2014 Intel Science Talent Search finalist. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Aparna Dave.)

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Jessica Shi, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior and fellow 2014 Intel Science Talent Search finalist. (Photo courtesy of Shi.)

In October, Davey and Shi were also named as semifinalists in the 2013-14 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology.

## **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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