



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET  
FOUNDATION INC.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students  
Named as Members of the 2016 U.S. Physics Team;  
A Total of Nine Earn Recognition**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Cynthia Liu of Rockville and Daniel Zhu of Potomac, a 2015-16 senior and freshman, respectively, in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named as members of the 2016 U.S. Physics Team by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics. No high school had more members on this prestigious team than the Blair Magnet. Additionally, seven other Blair Magnet students were named as semifinalists (with 2015-16 grade level): Sambuddha Chattopadhyay (11) of Olney; Raymond Lin (12) and Anish Senapati (10) of Gaithersburg; Eric Lu (12), Dilhan Salgado (10), and Matthew Yu (12) of Rockville; and Arnold Mong (12) of Potomac. The mission of the U.S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the 47<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, which is held this year in Zurich, Switzerland on July 10-18.

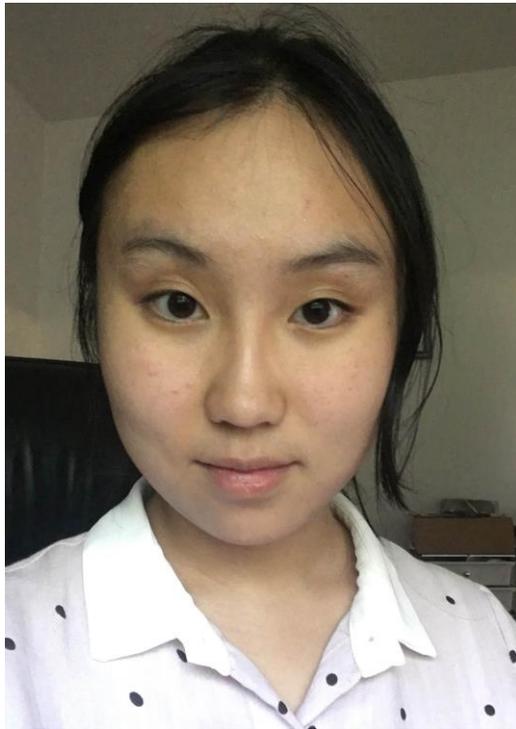
In January high school students nationwide took a written physics test called the  $F=ma$  exam. Based on their scores, roughly ten percent were named as semifinalists for the U.S. Physics Team, including the nine Blair Magnet students. In March a semifinal exam was administered, and based on these scores, 23 members of the team were selected. From May 26 until June 6 these students participated in an extensive training camp, including a crash course in the first two years of university physics, at the University of Maryland's College Park campus. In addition, leading physicists shared their cutting-edge research with the participants. At the end of the training camp, five students were selected to travel to Zurich for the international competition.

Students from the Blair Magnet regularly earn spots on the U.S. Physics Team and even the traveling team, providing them the opportunity to earn medals in international competition. At the

Keeping a Special Program Special  
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International Physics Olympiad in 2008, Edward Gan was awarded a gold medal, and in 2010, 2011, and 2013, Anand Oza, Andrew Das Sarma, and Samuel Zbarsky, respectively, each brought home a silver medal. Both Alexander Bourzutschky and Michael Winer earned a silver medal in 2014. Last year, Adam Busis scored a gold medal and tied for tenth place overall. Blair Magnet physics teacher Mr. James Schafer serves as coach of the Blair physics team.

2016 U.S. Physics Team member Cynthia Liu offers her thanks, “Participating in the 2016 US Physics Team was probably the most rigorous and enjoyable academic experience I had in high school. From the highly accelerated lectures in topics ranging from thermodynamics to relativity and biophysics to the near-daily trips to nearby shops for relaxation, there were too many great experiences to recall. None of this could have been possible without the consistent support of many people, including but not limited to our physics teacher, Mr. James Schafer, previous captains of physics team, including U.S. team alums Mike Winer and Alex Bourzutschky, and my parents.”



Blair Magnet 2016 graduate Cynthia Liu and 2015-16 freshman Daniel Zhu were named as members of the 2016 U.S. Physics Team. (Photo courtesy of Cynthia Liu.)

## **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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