



Board of
Directors:

Eileen Steinkraus
President
Ted Jou
Vice-President
Dan Shepherdson
Treasurer
Ralph Bunday
Member
Sherrie Emoto
Member
Lola Piper
Member
Emily Yanisko
Member
Beth Kaufman
General Counsel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2012

CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

**Montgomery Blair High School Teams Earn Awards at
Mini-Urban Challenge**

Silver Spring, MD—Two teams of Montgomery Blair High School students, many from the school's Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, took home three of five awards at their first appearance at the Washington, D.C. Area Regional Mini-Urban Challenge Competition in Manassas, VA on March 17. One team, named Fuzzy Logic, earned Third Place as well as Best Presentation. The other team, T.N.T., was awarded Best in Show, based on their robot's appearance.

The members of the team named Fuzzy Logic include Tatyana Gubin (captain) of Gaithersburg; Evan Feinberg, Richard Lin, Daniel Muskin-Pierret, and Philip Sequeira of Silver Spring; David Kaufman of Chevy Chase; Lisha Ruan, Audrey Shi, and Hannah Tsai of Rockville; and John Shi of Potomac. T.N.T. team members are Justin Yu (captain), Isha Darbari, Emily Guthrie, and Kejin Wang of Silver Spring; Callie Deng and Bowen Zhi of Gaithersburg; Linda Kang of Rockville; and Sarah Wagner of Potomac.

Twenty-one teams of high school students from the Eastern United States participated in this contest, in which students designed and operated a robotic car constructed of LEGO parts to autonomously navigate a model city. Students programmed the car to travel through a mock city, also constructed of LEGO pieces, which included one-way streets, stop signs, traffic circles, and parking spaces. Only an hour prior to the competition, students learned of six locations where the robot was required to park, and they had 45 minutes to complete their computer instructions. Points were awarded for parking successfully, stopping at stop signs, and traveling properly on the roadways; points were deducted for driving on sidewalks or grass or overshooting a stop sign or parking space boundary. In addition, each team delivered a 20-minute presentation to the judges about their building process, challenges encountered, and solutions found. The Institute of Navigation and the United States Air Force Research Laboratory sponsor the Mini-Urban Challenge contests annually. Blair Magnet science teacher, Mr. Tran Pham, serves as coach for both Blair teams.

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Members of the Blair Mini-Urban Challenge teams strike a pose at the competition (from left to right): (front row) John Shi, David Kaufman, Philip Sequeira, and Coach Tran Pham; (middle row) Lisha Ruan, Callie Deng, Richard Lin, Hannah Tsai; (back row) Bowen Zhi, Kejin Wang, Tatyana Gubin.



Members of Blair Fuzzy Logic team look on as contest judges evaluate their entry (from left): Philip Sequeira, David Kaufman, Tatyana Gubin, two contest officials, Lisha Ruan, Richard Lin, and Hannah Tsai. (Photos courtesy of Beth Kaufman)

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.