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**Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Named as  
Members of the U.S. Physics Team**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Alexander Bourzutschky of Potomac and Michael Winer of North Bethesda, a senior and a junior, respectively in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, were named as members of the 2014 U.S. Physics Team on May 21 by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics. The mission of the U.S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the International Physics Olympiad, which will be held this year in Astana, Kazakhstan on July 13-21. At this competition, over 400 students from 92 countries will test their knowledge of physics.

In January 4,274 high school students nationwide took a written physics test called the F=ma exam. Based on their scores, 431 were named as semifinalists for the U.S. Physics Team. Thirteen of these students hailed from the Blair Magnet, including Bourzutschky and Winer. In March a semifinal exam was administered, and based on these scores, nineteen members of the team were selected. From May 27 until June 6 these students will participate 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 will share their cutting-edge research with the participants. At the end of the training camp, five students will be selected to travel to Kazakhstan for the international competition. Last year, Winer was selected as a member of the U.S. Physics Team, along with then Blair Magnet senior Samuel Zbarsky, and Bourzutschky was named a semifinalist.

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 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. Blair Magnet physics teacher Mr. James Schafer

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serves as coach of the Blair physics team.

Team member Bourzutschky credits Mr. Schafer, “The first year of high school was a pivotal point in my physics education. The Blair Magnet’s freshman physics course taught by Mr. Schafer entirely shifted my focus. It was then when I realized that physics may be where my future studies lay.”

Fellow team member Winer adds his gratitude, “I’d like to thank the Blair Magnet in general and Mr. Schafer in particular for providing these opportunities and giving me the knowledge needed to capitalize on them.”



Blair Magnet senior Alexander Bourzutschky (above) and junior Michael Winer (below) were recently named members of the U.S. Physics Team. (Photos courtesy of Alex Bourzutschky and Ms. Emily Hofmann, respectively.)

# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

## **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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