



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET  
FOUNDATION INC.



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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student Named as  
Member of the U.S. Physics Team**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Adam Busis of Silver Spring, a senior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was named as a member of the 2015 U.S. Physics Team on May 8 by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) 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 Mumbai, India on July 4-13. At this competition, over 400 students from approximately 90 countries will test their knowledge of physics.

In January, 4,390 high school students nationwide took a written physics test called the  $F=ma$  exam. Based on their scores, approximately ten percent were invited to take the U.S. Physics Olympiad (USPhO) Test in March. As a result of this exam, the twenty members of the 2015 U.S. Physics Team were identified, and a total of 258, including these twenty, were designated as the recipients of gold, silver, and bronze medals or honorable mention recognition. Twelve of these students hail from the Blair Magnet, including Busis.

These students include (separated by their gold, bronze, or honorable mention recognition and with school grade level):  
Gold—Adam Busis (12), Bendeguz Offertaler (12) of Rockville, and Mike Winer (12) of North Bethesda  
Bronze—Eric Neyman (12) and Victor Xu (12) of Rockville  
Honorable Mention—Sambuddha Chattopadhyay (10) of Olney, Theodore Corrales (12) and Jared Marx-Kuo (12) of Silver Spring, Matthew Das Sarma (12) and Eshan Tewari (10) of Potomac, Raymond Lin (11) and Dennis Zhao (12) of Gaithersburg.

On May 18-27, the twenty members of the U.S. Physics Team 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

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will share their cutting-edge research with the participants. At the end of the training camp, five students will be selected to travel to India 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. Last year, then Blair Magnet senior Alexander Bourzutschky and junior Michael Winer were selected as members of the U.S. Physics Team traveling team and earned silver medals at the International Physics Olympiad in Kazakhstan. 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 and math teacher Mr. James Schafer serves as coach of the Blair physics team.

Mr. Schafer congratulates the Blair Physics team co-captains, “I am extremely proud of all the students who participated in the U.S. Physics Team competition this year. Blair had another successful year, with many students earning gold, bronze, and honorable mentions following the semifinal round of competition. We are all very excited for Adam Busis, and we wish him the best of luck in qualifying for the international team. All the success this year is a testament to the strong leadership and enthusiasm from all of the Blair physics team captains.”

U.S. Physics Team member Busis credits the Blair Magnet and Mr. Schafer, “I am honored to be chosen as a member of the National Physics Team, and I want to thank AAPT for providing me with this opportunity. I also want to thank the Blair Magnet teachers for the amazing education they have given me, and especially Mr. Schafer, who has taught me so much about physics. Finally, I want to thank my teammates on the Blair physics team and especially our captain, Mike Winer, for so many insightful discussions about physics over the past two years.”

Blair physics team co-captain and honorable mention recipient Jared Marx-Kuo congratulates Busis, “Blair physics team is fortunate to have done so well this year. In addition to twelve members of the team being recognized for their performance on the USPhO exam, Adam Busis made this the third year in a row in which Blair has sent a student to the national team. Adam has been a devoted member of Physics Team throughout the years, and we wish him good luck in making the international team.”

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Blair Magnet senior Adam Busis was named as one of twenty members nationally of the U.S. Physics Team. He will attend Harvey Mudd College in fall.  
(Photo courtesy of Prestige Portraits)

## **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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Keeping a Special Program Special  
[www.mbhsmagnet.org](http://www.mbhsmagnet.org)

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