



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET  
FOUNDATION INC.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2016

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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students  
Place Fourth at Maryland Science Olympiad**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Montgomery Blair’s Science Olympiad team, comprised of students from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned fourth place last month at the Maryland Science Olympiad, which was held at Johns Hopkins University. Science Olympiad teams consist of fifteen members who compete in 23 events, which are based on the areas of chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering.

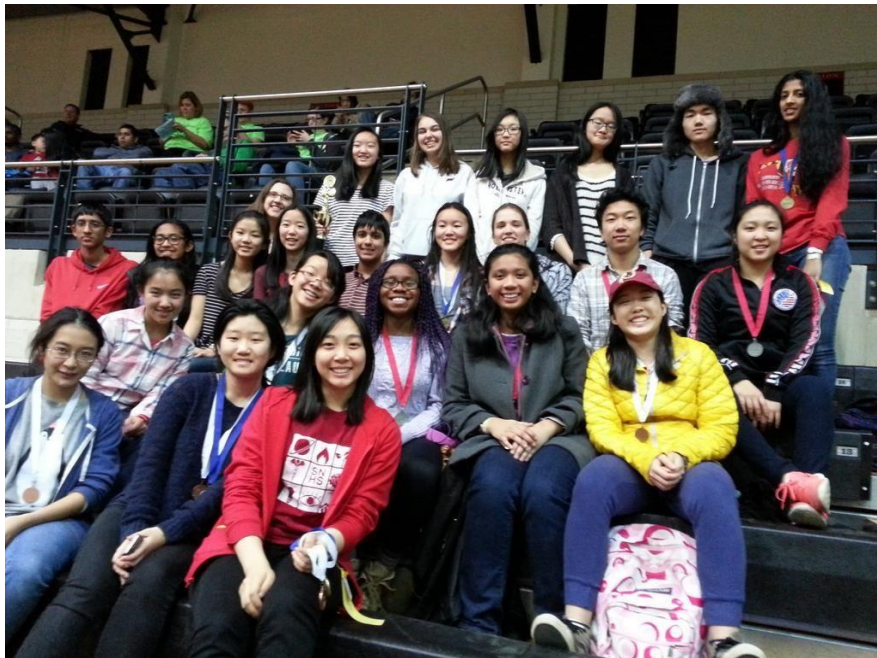
The three team leaders include seniors Patrick Chao, Ramya Durvasula, and Amy Li, all of Potomac. The twelve remaining team members (with grade level) are Faith Mindy Burton (9) of Ashton; Aleksandra Dagunts (12), Simin Li (11), and Juliana Lu-Yang (11) of Rockville; Serena Debesai (10), Rahul Jain (10), and Benjamin Mourad (10) of Silver Spring; Abigail Lo (9) of Takoma Park; Cindy Liu (9) and Mengming Luo (10) of Potomac; Wendy Shi (10) of Gaithersburg; and Josephine Yu (12) of Potomac. Montgomery Blair magnet and science teachers Mrs. Elizabeth Duval and Mrs. Megan Hart serve as the team coaches.

In the competition, students work together on events such as constructing model planes, building protein models, creating a robot arm, and designing a bridge. Overall, the Montgomery Blair team earned fourth place statewide. In individual events, the team placed first in the chemistry lab event; second in the dynamic planet, protein models, and geologic mapping events; and third in the anatomy and physiology and robot arm events.

Team member Amy Li gratefully comments, “I’m very glad that we started a Science Olympiad team because I learned so much about science topics that I wouldn’t have ordinarily learned about.” Fellow team member Faith Mindy Burton adds her thanks, “I was very excited to represent Montgomery Blair at the Maryland State Science Olympiad during my first year in the Blair Magnet. I would like to thank Mrs. Duval and Mrs. Hart for their support and for giving so

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much of their time to activities that promote the sciences.” Team co-coach Mrs. Elizabeth Duval congratulates the team, “I am so proud of the students who participated in the competitions. They worked very hard to prepare for these competitions, and it shows. Special thanks to Amy and Ramya, who dedicated their time and energy to truly make this team happen.”



The Montgomery Blair Science Olympiad team earned fourth place at the Maryland Science Olympiad. The team members from the state competition and prior regional competition include: (front row, left to right) Mengming Luo, Jeong-Yoon Wu, and Josephine Yu; (second row, left to right) Wendy Shi, Abigail Lo, Grace Olawuni, Aisha Marsono, and Anna Ou; (third row, left to right) Naveen Durvasula, Serena Debesai, Katherine Wu, Elaine Wu, Rahul Jain, Winne Luo, Aleksandra Dagunts, Patrick Chao, and Amy Li; and (top row, left to right) Team coach Mrs. Megan Hart, Cindy Liu, Faith Mindy Burton, Eve Kuo, Juliana Lu-Yang, Arnold Mong, and Ramya Durvasula.  
(Photo courtesy of Team coach Mrs. Elizabeth Duval)

The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation provided a grant to fund the Blair Science Olympiad team’s formation and participation in this and the prior regional competition, in which a sixth place victory out of a field of over 50 teams qualified them to move on to compete at the state level.

### **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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