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**Four Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students
Honored as Semifinalists in Prestigious Siemens Competition**

Silver Spring, MD—Four seniors from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program were named as semifinalists in the 2013-14 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology on October 18. This prestigious annual award recognizes remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. In the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program, this work represents the student’s senior research project. This is original research completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. The work usually begins in the student’s junior year and continues throughout the summer. Siemens acknowledges semifinalists with a school banner and a gift package. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the College Board.

The Blair Magnet Siemens semifinalists, their research titles, and mentors are as follows:

Megan Chao of Rockville, “An Experimental Study of New and Existing Algorithms for Minimizing Busy Time on Multiple Parallel Machines,” Dr. Samir Khuller, Chair and Professor, University of Maryland College Park, Department of Computer Science

Neil Davey of Gaithersburg, “Detection of Circulating Tumor Cells Using Drop-based Microfluidics for Early Prostate Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment,” Dr. Huidan Zhang, Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard University, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

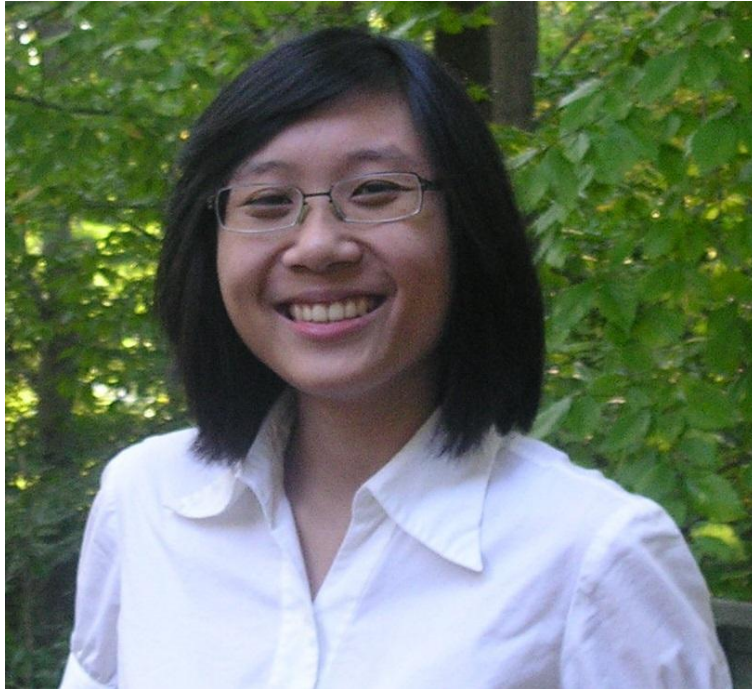
Robert Martin of Silver Spring, “Investigating Partial Oxidation as an Abiotic Mechanism for the Formation of Biochemically Relevant Molecules in Primitive Celestial Bodies,” Dr. George Cody, Senior Staff Scientist, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Geophysical Laboratory

Jessica Shi of Rockville, “The Speeds of Families of Intersection Graphs,” Mr. Francisco Unda, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Mathematics

Megan Chao expresses her gratitude, “I’d like to thank my mentor, Dr. Khuller, for all the guidance he has provided me with for this research

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project. It is an honor to have my work recognized in the Siemens Competition. The Blair Magnet really encourages students to apply to competitions like Siemens; the extra encouragement certainly helps us put forth our best efforts. Also, when underclassmen see seniors succeeding in competitions, it motivates them to make the most of their research opportunities. I'm really proud of all my classmates and how far we've come in the past few years."



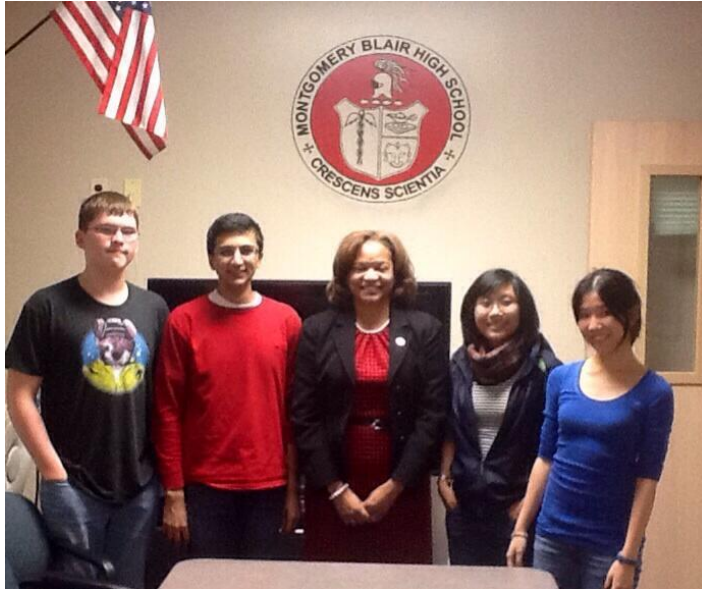
Megan Chao, Montgomery Blair Magnet senior and 2013-2014 Siemens Competition semifinalist
(Photo courtesy of Ms. Biru Jwang)

Chao's mentor, Dr. Samir Khuller, Chair and Professor of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland College Park, has also generously mentored five other Blair Magnet alumni who were honored in previous Siemens competitions or in the Intel Science Talent Search: Sam Zbarsky (Intel 7th place national winner, 2012-2013; Siemens semifinalist, 2011-2012), Sharon Chen (Intel semifinalist, 2012-2013), Frederic Koehler (Intel finalist, 2011-2012), Matthew McCutchen (Intel finalist, 2006-2007), and Michael Forbes (Intel finalist, 2004-2005). Robert Martin's mentor, Dr. George Cody, Senior Staff Scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory, has graciously mentored Blair Magnet students in previous years and is also the parent of a Blair Magnet alumna.

Blair Magnet teacher Ms. Angelique Bosse, who oversees the senior research projects, comments on the award recipients, "The four students selected as Siemens semifinalists represent the spirit of the

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Blair Magnet Program in that collectively their project topics cover the range of the magnet focus fields at prestigious programs both locally and afar. Neil Davey (bioengineering) and Jessica Shi (mathematics) conducted their research through established formal programs, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University and the Research Science Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively. Robert Martin (chemistry) and Megan Chao (computer science) conducted their research locally at the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the University of Maryland, respectively. I am very proud of all of them.”



Montgomery Blair Magnet seniors and 2013-2014 Siemens Competition semifinalists with Montgomery Blair High School principal, Mrs. Renay Johnson (from left) : Robert Martin, Neil Davey, Mrs. Renay Johnson, Megan Chao, and Jessica Shi. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Renay Johnson)

This fall a record 2,440 students entered this premier national contest, submitting 1,599 projects. There are a total of sixteen Siemens Competition semifinalists in Maryland, all but one from the Montgomery County Public School system. Although there are no Siemens Competition finalists from Maryland this year, Neil Davey was a 2012-2013 Siemens Competition Regional finalist and then winner, and continued on to win third place nationally.

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

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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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