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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Graduate  
Earns Gold Medal at International Physics Olympiad**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Adam Busis of Silver Spring, a 2015 graduate of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned a gold medal at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). This competition among over 400 pre-university physics students from 83 nations was held in Mumbai, India on July 5-12 and consisted of both a five-hour theoretical and an equally long experimental exam.

Busis was one of five students who represented the 2015 U.S. Physics Team as members of the traveling team. Team USA brought home four gold medals and one silver medal, tying for second place, based on medal count. Busis earned the highest individual score from Team USA and tied for the tenth highest score internationally. With five gold medals, China earned first place. With four gold medals and one silver medal each, Russia, Korea, and Taiwan tied with the United States for second place.

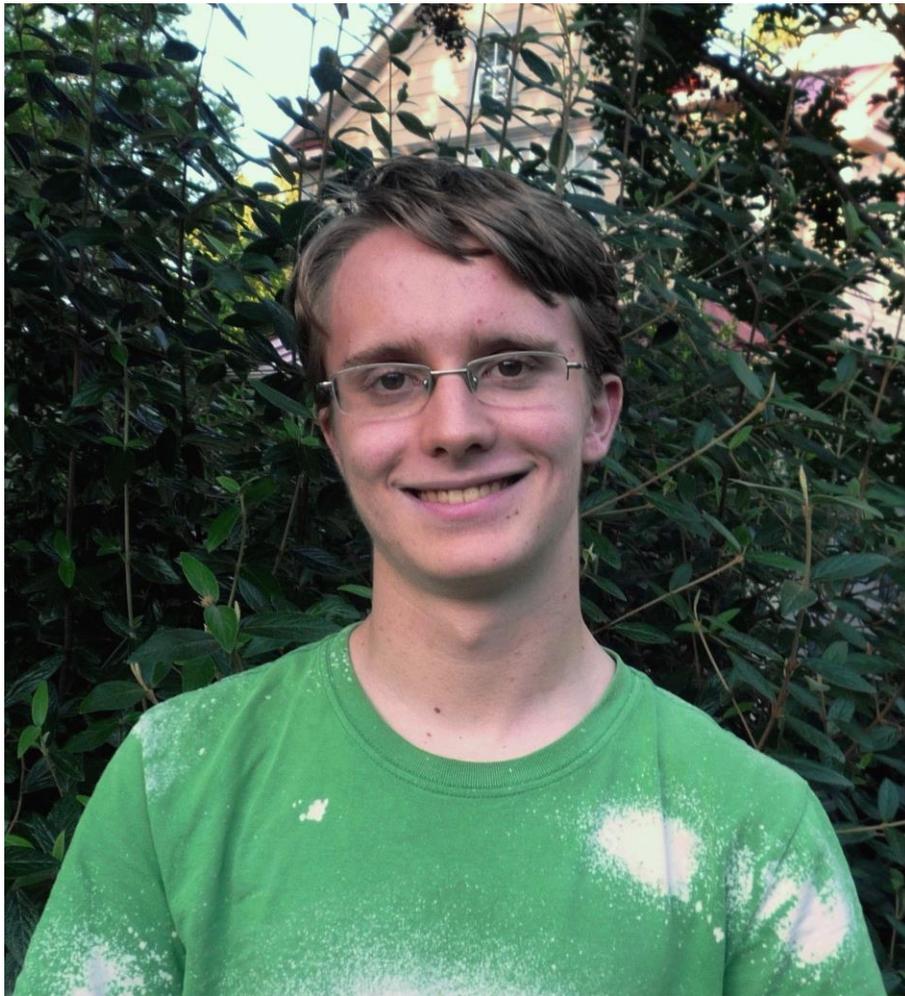
In addition to a nine-day training camp at the University of Maryland at College Park and George Washington University in May for all twenty members of the U.S. Physics Team, Busis, along with the other four members who were selected to the traveling team, were assigned further problems to solve independently. Prior to the international competition, all members of the traveling team, along with their coaches, Dr. Paul Stanley and Dr. David Fallest, attended additional days of training in Thailand with the Thai team in late June. The competition's theory questions concerned measurements of properties of the sun involving light and neutrinos, a survey of least action principles, and the engineering design of a nuclear reactor. The experimental question was centered on high quality optics set to measure diffraction patterns of helices and the properties of water by measuring diffraction patterns of short wavelength surface waves.

For more than a decade, every member of the traveling team representing the U.S. Physics Team has earned a medal at this international competition, and several Blair students have been among them. At the 2014 competition in Astana, Kazakhstan, Blair Magnet 2014 graduate Alexander Bourzutschky and 2015 graduate Michael

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Winer each earned a silver medal. In the 2013 competition in Copenhagen, Denmark, Blair Magnet 2013 graduate Samuel Zbarsky also earned a silver medal. Two years earlier, Blair Magnet 2011 graduate Andrew Das Sarma was awarded a silver medal. The previous year in Zagreb, Croatia, Blair Magnet 2010 graduate Anand Oza brought home silver, and at the 2008 competition, Blair Magnet 2009 graduate Edward Gan earned a gold medal.



Adam Busis, a 2015 graduate of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned a gold medal and tied for the tenth highest individual score at the International Physics Olympiad in Mumbai, India. (Photo courtesy of Leslie Hall)

Blair Physics Team Coach and Blair Magnet physics and mathematics teacher Mr. James Schafer congratulates Busis, “I am very proud of Adam and am thrilled with his performance. He is a remarkable young man, did a terrific job, and represented his school, state, and nation incredibly well.”

Busis expresses his gratitude and excitement concerning the IPhO, “Competing in the International Physics Olympiad in Mumbai was

really fun. Simply put, none of this ever would have happened if I hadn't been in the Blair Magnet Program—the Magnet engineering courses helped me in the experimental part of the competition, and the mathematical physics course I took in my senior year from Mr. Schafer prepared me for the theoretical part. The U.S. Physics Team coaches Dr. Stanley and Dr. Fallest were outstanding, and the team's time training in Maryland and Thailand was invaluable. All in all, it was an amazing way to spend my summer!"

In the fall, Busis will continue his studies at Harvey Mudd College.

### **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.