



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student and Alumnus Earn Silver Medals at International Physics Olympiad**

**Silver Spring, MD**—Alexander Bourzutschky of Potomac and Michael Winer of North Bethesda, a 2014 graduate of and a rising senior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, respectively, each earned a silver medal at the 45<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). This competition among over 400 pre-university physics students from 86 nations was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on July 13-21 and consisted of both theoretical and experimental exams.

Bourzutschky and Winer were two of five students who represented the 2014 U.S. Physics Team as members of the traveling team. They were the only members from the eastern United States. In addition, Montgomery Blair was the sole high school with more than one team member. Team USA brought home three gold and two silver medals, tying for third place, based on medal count. With five gold medals each, China, Korea, and Taiwan tied for first place; with four gold and one silver medal, Thailand earned second place.

In addition to a nine-day training camp at the University of Maryland at College Park in May for all twenty members of the U.S. Physics Team, Bourzutschky and Winer, along with the other three members who were selected to the traveling team were assigned problems to solve independently. Prior to this international competition, all members of the traveling team, along with their coaches, attended three additional days of intense lab training at the University of Maryland at College Park in early July.

For over the last decade, every member of the traveling team representing the U.S. Physics Team has earned a medal at this international competition. The U.S. team was awarded three gold and two silver medals at the 2013 competition in Copenhagen, Denmark, where Blair Magnet 2013 graduate Samuel Zbarsky earned a silver medal. Two years earlier, Team USA brought home two gold and three silver medals at the 2011 competition in Bangkok, Thailand, where Blair Magnet 2011 graduate Andrew Das Sarma was awarded a silver medal. The previous year in Zagreb, Croatia, this country's team earned one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals. Anand Oza, a

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2010 Blair Magnet graduate, brought home silver. Two years earlier in Hanoi, Vietnam, the U.S. team was awarded four gold medals and one silver medal at the 2008 competition, where Edward Gan, a rising senior in the Blair Magnet at the time, earned a gold medal.

Bourzutschky expresses his gratitude concerning the IPhO, “I can’t think of a better way to round out my high school experience. The IPhO is the most prestigious high school physics competition, and returning from it with a silver medal for my country and me would not have been possible without the support of my parents, the Blair Magnet (particularly Blair Physics Team Coach Mr. James Schafer), and the leaders of the US Physics Team, Paul Stanley and Dave Fallest.”



The 2014 U.S. Physics Traveling Team with medals (from left): Coach Paul Stanley, Calvin Huang, Alexander Bourzutschky, Vikram Sundar, Kevin Fei, Michael Winer, and Coach David Fallest. (Photo courtesy of Coach Paul Stanley)



A happy celebration after hearing of their selection to the traveling team (from left): Michael Winer, proud moms Ms. Emily Hofmann and Ms. Judith Bourzutschky, Blair Magnet physics teacher and Blair Physics Team Coach Mr. James Schafer, Blair Magnet Coordinator Mr. Peter Ostrander, and Alexander Bourzutschky. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Judith Bourzutschky)

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Bourzutschky will attend the California Institute of Technology in fall, and Winer will be a senior in the Blair Magnet.

### **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.