



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET
FOUNDATION INC.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Advance in
U.S. Chemistry Team Competition**

Silver Spring, MD—Arjuna Subramanian of Silver Spring and Victor Xu of Rockville, both seniors in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, qualified for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad National Exam through their performances on the local level Chemistry Olympiad exam. This contest, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, is designed to stimulate and promote achievement in high school chemistry.

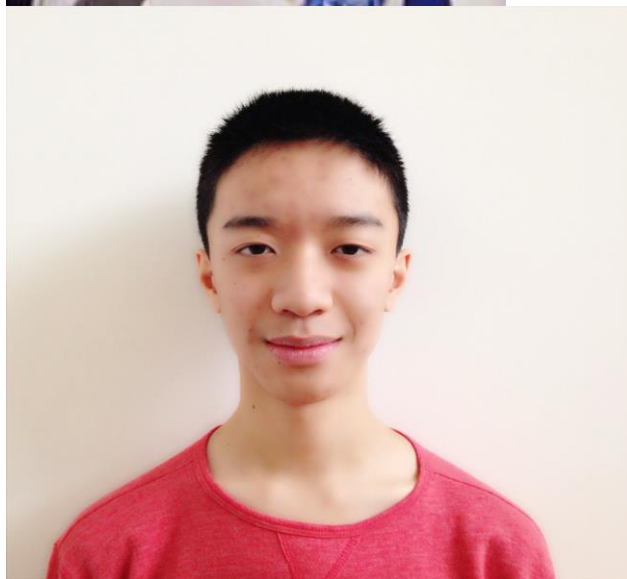
About 10,000 high school students nationally participated in the initial phase of testing at the local level in March. Based on results of this first test, Subramanian and Xu were selected as the two students Blair was allowed to send to participate in the next (semifinal) level of competition, the national exam, on April 14-20. This is a 4 3/4-hour, three-part exam consisting of a multiple-choice section, a problem-solving section, and a lab practical. The top twenty scorers on this national exam are invited to a two-week study camp where they try to earn one of four spots on the U.S. Chemistry Team, which will travel to the 47th International Chemistry Olympiad to be held on July 20-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Subramanian credits his Blair teachers, including chemistry and physics teacher and longtime Blair chemistry team sponsor Mr. Tran Pham, Blair science and research teacher Ms. Angelique Bosse, and Blair science teacher Mrs. Megan Hart, “I would like to thank Mr. Pham for his guidance over the years and the Blair Magnet for facilitating the teaching of critical electives like physical and analytical chemistry, as well as Ms. Hart’s organic chemistry class--a truly excellent addition to my studies. I would also like to thank my summer research mentor Dr. Jorabchi of Georgetown University for his personal encouragement of my interest in chemistry. The Blair Magnet’s summer research program, overseen by Ms. Bosse, really opened my eyes to the rewards of hard work and independent thinking.”

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Arjuna Subramanian (above) and Victor Xu advanced to the second round of selection for the 2015 U.S. Chemistry Team.
(Photos courtesy of Dr. Valerie Asher and Ms. Lijun Xiong, respectively)

About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, 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

Keeping a Special Program Special
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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 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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