



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Grad Selected as
U.S. Team Member to Compete at
International Olympiad in Informatics**

Silver Spring, MD—Michael Cohen of Chevy Chase, a 2010 graduate of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was chosen on June 6 as one of four students to represent the U.S. at the 2010 International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI). Not only was Cohen selected as a member of the U.S. team through his performance at the USA Computing Olympiad (USACO) training camp, but he also took first place at this competition, which was held at Clemson University. As a team member, he will travel to Waterloo, Ontario for the IOI to be held August 14-21.

The main goal of the USACO is the promotion of computing for pre-college students. Six internet contests are held during the academic year as well as a proctored exam, the US Open. Based on the results of these contests, approximately 15 American students and a few of the top international students are invited to the training camp, which took place this year at Clemson University. At the competition, students are given three difficult computing algorithm problems. They have three to five hours to write a computer program that can solve each problem within one second.

Cohen points out that the Blair Magnet has sent at least one student to the training camp each of the last six years. In fact, Cohen has been invited every year from 2008 to 2010. In 2008, Cohen, as well as fellow 2010 Magnet graduates Jacob Hurwitz of Rockville and Scott Zimmerman of Gaithersburg, were all invited. Furthermore, the Blair Magnet has sent one or two students to the International Science Olympiads (Biology, Informatics, Mathematics, and Physics) each of the last six years. When asked about the computing contests, Cohen commented, "USACO is just an amazingly fun competition, and has been great way to meet other students with similar interests to mine. Blair (and really, in particular Matt McCutchen) played a great role in introducing me to the whole world of algorithms and algorithmic contests." McCutchen, Blair Magnet '07 graduate, won two gold and

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one silver medals at the IOI competitions in 2005-2007.

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 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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