



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

Address:

MBHS Magnet
Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 5329
Takoma Park,
MD 20913

Six Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Awarded \$80,000 Scholarships at GWU Colonial Math Challenge and Team Takes First Place

Silver Spring, MD—Eight Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students participated in the George Washington University (GWU) Department of Mathematics Colonial Math Challenge at GWU's Foggy Bottom campus on October 29, with official results posted November 9. This event is an annual math competition that is open to all high school students in the mid-Atlantic region. The participants were senior Andrew Das Sarma of Potomac, juniors Brendan Berger of Rockville and Andrew Gilbert of Silver Spring, sophomores Jason Hyun of Silver Spring and Diwakaran Ilangovan of Gaithersburg, and freshmen Michelle Noh and Jessica Shi of Rockville and Angelina Yu of Potomac. Furthermore, Berger, Das Sarma, Gilbert, Hyun, Ilangovan, Noh, and Shi placed in the group of top 50 scorers on the multiple choice Colonial I math test. For this accomplishment, they were eligible to advance to the challenging proof-type Colonial II math test. No other high school had more students place in the top 50 than Montgomery Blair. Furthermore, Das Sarma was among the top six scorers on the Colonial I test and was presented with an engraved plaque. Last year at the 2009 contest, he earned one of the top 52 Colonial I scores.

In the Colonial II competition, Berger, Das Sarma, Gilbert, Hyun, Ilangovan, and Shi earned top twelve scores and were each awarded four-year scholarships at \$20,000 per year and an engraved plaque. The scholarships are good at GWU for undergraduate students majoring in any area of mathematical or physical sciences or engineering. Freshman scholarship recipient Shi commented, "My parents were not sure if I should have gone to this event to compete with juniors and seniors. It was a fun experience, though." Montgomery Blair boasted half of the top twelve scorers and, of course, more than any other high school represented at the competition.

The remaining event of the day was the Colonial Bowl, a team competition where teams of four competed against each other two at a time by buzzing in to answer math questions. The Blair Magnet team of Das Sarma, Gilbert, Hyun, and Ilangovan was undefeated in six rounds, won first place among 32 teams, and was awarded trophies and

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medals. Modestly, Das Sarma noted, "The best aspect of GWU was the strong showing by underclassmen. In contrast with the senior domination that's often seen at math competitions, half of our scholarship winners and more than half of our team were freshmen or sophomores."

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.

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