



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Board of  
Directors:

Ralph Bunday  
*President*  
Eileen Steinkraus  
*Vice-President*  
Ted Jou  
*Secretary*  
Dan Shepherdson  
*Treasurer*  
Nannette Dyas  
*Member*  
Emily Yanisko  
*Member*  
Sherrie Emoto  
*Member*  
Beth Kaufman  
*General Counsel*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 13, 2010

**CONTACT:** Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

## **Seven Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Seniors Named as Intel Semifinalists**

**Silver Spring, MD**—The Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers the Intel Science Talent Search, announced on January 12 that seven Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program seniors are among 300 semifinalists in the 2011 competition. The seven students (and their project titles) include Fang Cao (“Using Very Large Promoter Fragments to Identify Modulating Neurons in the *Drosophila* Visual System”), Andrew Das Sarma (“A Nanoscale Study of Structural and Electronic Transitions in Vanadium Dioxide”), Ajay Kannan (“Observing SH-SY5Y Morphological Response to Hypoosmotic and Hyperosmotic Mechanical Stress”), and Winston Liu (“Ethane-Hydrogen Systems under High Pressure”) of Potomac, Nilay Kumar (“Low Density Nuclear Matter in the Large  $N_c$  and Heavy Quark Limits of QCD”) of North Potomac, Sandra Yan (“Determining Iron Concentration in the Motor Cortices of Patients with Focal Hand Dystonia”) of Derwood, and Raina Zheng (“STAT1 as a Molecular Target in Breast Cancer Therapy”) of Silver Spring. Each student will receive \$1,000, and Montgomery Blair High School will receive \$7,000 (\$1,000 for each of the semifinalists) to be used to further science, math, and engineering education.

The Intel Science Talent Search is the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in this country. 1,744 high school seniors, from 499 schools in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and an overseas location submitted their original science projects in the fall, and 300 were named as semifinalists. In the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program, this work represents the student’s senior research project, overseen by Magnet teacher Ms. Elizabeth Duval. This is original research completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. The work usually begins in the student’s junior year and continues throughout the summer. This year the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program boasts the second highest number of semifinalists of any high school in the country (a good number of which are large all-magnet schools), only one short of the two schools with the highest number of

Address:

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

## Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

semifinalists. In fact, this year Montgomery County Public Schools has the most semifinalists of any school district across the country, and since 1999 Montgomery Blair High School has had the most Intel semifinalists of any high school nationwide.

These semifinalists will continue on to compete for 40 positions as finalists, to be named on January 26. Finalists will compete for \$630,000 in awards from the Intel Foundation, including a top award of a \$100,000 scholarship. Final judging will occur in Washington, D.C. on March 10-15.

### **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.

###

---

---