



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Senior Takes First Place at  
Junior Science and Humanities Symposium**

**Silver Spring, MD**— Andrew Gibiansky of Gaithersburg was awarded first place at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) Greater Washington, DC regional competition at Georgetown University last month. The prestigious JSHS Program promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement. It is jointly sponsored by the United States Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in cooperation with leading research universities throughout the nation and the Department of Defense.

Students from DC, Maryland, and Virginia submitted their research papers to the JSHS Greater Washington, DC regional competition last fall. Georgetown University professors read through these papers and selected five students to present their research at the regional symposium. Each presentation was 15 minutes long and was followed by a question and answer session with Georgetown professors and other high school students.

Gibiansky was honored with first place and a \$2,000 scholarship for his paper entitled "Automatic Recognition and Classification of Uncontrolled Photos of Household Pets with Multiple Basic Algorithms." This paper was the result of research Gibiansky conducted for his Senior Research Project under Dr. David Jacobs of the University of Maryland College Park. Gibiansky will be given an all-expense paid trip to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> National JSHS to be held April 27-May 1 in San Diego. In addition, he will have the opportunity to present his research again at the national JSHS for a chance of earning up to \$20,000 more in scholarship money and a trip to the London International Youth Science Forum to be held July 27-August 10 at London University.

About the Blair Magnet, Gibiansky explains, "The magnet was very helpful, particularly by keeping us surrounded by people who are perpetually interested in science and math and driving us to learn more, whether in-class or outside of school. Many of the Senior Research Projects exemplified this."

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## **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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