



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Board of
Directors:

Eileen Steinkraus
President
Ted Bunday
Vice-President
Susan Ragan
Secretary
Dan Shepherdson
Treasurer
Ralph Bunday
Member
Sherrie Emoto
Member
Emily Yanisko
Member
Beth Kaufman
General Counsel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2011

CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

Address:

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

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Alumni Honored as University of Maryland Students

Silver Spring, MD—Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program alumni, who are currently undergraduates at the University of Maryland College Park (UMD), have recently been selected for prestigious distinctions.

On March 2 Dylan Rebois ('07), a UMD mechanical engineering major, was named the recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency / Marshall Scholarship. This highly competitive award provides for three years of funding toward a Ph.D. in the United States or United Kingdom. Already the recipient of one of only 32 Marshall Scholarships, from a pool of 999 nominees nationally, he was funded for two years of graduate studies, for a total of five years. Last year he was also named a Truman Scholar and received a Morris K. Udall scholarship. Rebois plans to earn a master's degree in sustainable energy futures at the Imperial College London and a second master's degree in engineering for sustainable development at the University of Cambridge before returning for doctoral studies in the United States. He credits the Blair magnet for spawning his academic focus, "Much of my desire to leverage engineering against complex questions of environmental and community development policy is attributable to my time in the magnet program. In high school, my teachers and peers encouraged me to look beyond the technical scope of the material toward broader social motivations. My experience at Blair laid a critical foundation that continues to support me at the University of Maryland, and will carry me through my career."

Ethan Schaler ('07), a UMD mechanical engineering major and international engineering minor, was awarded a Churchill Scholarship to engage in graduate studies at the University of Cambridge. This prestigious scholarship is awarded annually to only fourteen students pursuing studies in mathematics, science, or engineering at one of 103 American colleges and universities. It covers tuition and fees, as well as providing an allowance for living and travel expenses. After completing an MPhil in micro and nanotechnology enterprise at the University of Cambridge, Schaler will return for Ph.D. studies in the

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

United States. Schaler has previously been awarded a Goldwater Scholarship and a Bridging Scholarship for study in Japan and is project manager for five engineering projects in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Peru and the United States. Recognizing the Blair magnet, Schaler comments, “My time in the Blair magnet developed a foundation in technology and science that has enabled me to excel in my engineering studies at the University of Maryland. I've since had incredible opportunities to conduct research in micro-robotics and nanotechnology, work / lead projects with Engineers Without Borders, and study / travel in Japan.”

Holman Gao ('08) and Scott Zimmerman ('10), majoring in computer engineering and computer science, respectively, were selected as two members of a team of three to represent UMD at the 2011 Association for Computing Machinery Intercollegiate Programming Contest World Finals to be held on May 27-31 in Orlando, Florida. For the third year in a row, UMD has been chosen as one of the 100 teams to compete in the finals. This year over 8,700 teams worldwide participated in regional qualifying competitions. Last year the UMD team even won first place among all public American universities. This competition was originally scheduled for February 27-March 4 in Egypt but was rescheduled due to political unrest in the country. Zimmerman expresses his gratitude to the Blair magnet in commenting, “It's exciting to get to travel and compete in programming competitions, and I don't think I would have these opportunities if it weren't for the Blair magnet and Blair's computer programming club.”



Ethan Schaler (Blair magnet '07), UMD's Churchill Scholar. (Photo courtesy Schaler)

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Dylan Rebois (Blair magnet '07), UMD's Environmental Protection Agency/Marshall Scholar.
(Photo courtesy of Rebois)

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 a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

###
