



# Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2011

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### Ten Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Win at Montgomery County Science Fair

**Silver Spring, MD**—Ten Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students placed in judging and received prizes at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Science Fair, which was held on March 18-20 at the University of Maryland College Park's Reckord Armory. One of these students, Shilpa Kannan, was selected as an alternate to the 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, California in May. In addition, four Blair magnet alumni, Jacob Hurwitz ('10), Sneha Kannan ('09), Jennifer Wang ('10), and Louis Wasserman ('08), were invited to return as organizers of the fair. The event is sponsored by ScienceMONTGOMERY, a nonprofit organization of Montgomery County science and education firms.

The student winners, their projects, and some of their awards are as follows:

**Melodi Anahtar** of Bethesda, "A Better Mousetrap: Examining the Hypersensitivity of Eosinophilic Esophagitis," 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Medicine and Health; U.S. Army Honorable Mention; U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Award

**Ann Choi** of Rockville, "Comparative Analysis of High Velocity Projectile Images Using MATLAB," Honorable Mention in Computer Science; American Society of Mechanical Engineers 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$25); Office of Naval Research (ONR) Award (\$50); Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) Award; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place; USPHS Award

**Andrew Das Sarma** of Potomac, "A Nanoscale Study of Structural and Electronic Transitions in Vanadium Dioxide," 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Physics; Optical Society of America Award; U.S. Army Honorable Mention

**Ajay Kannan** of Potomac, "Observing SH-SY5Y Morphological Response to Hypoosmotic and Hyperosmotic Mechanical Stress," Honorable Mention in Medicine and Health; USNRC Honorable Mention; USPHS Award

**Shilpa Kannan** of Potomac, "Identification of Essential Glycoprotein Structures and Their Implications in the Treatment of Genetic Disorders," 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Biochemistry category (\$175); ISEF Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up (\$100 and alternate for ISEF trip); U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Place

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**Lori Kaufman** of Chevy Chase, “Using Magnetic Resonance to Observe Proton Motions in Proton-Conducting Polymers,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Chemistry (\$75); U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement

**Maureen Lei** of Potomac, “Evaluation of Apomab on Ewing’s Sarcoma,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Medicine and Health (\$75); MIT Club Honorable Mention; U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement

**Jinhie Skarda** of Silver Spring, “Signals and Information Carried on Radio Frequencies: A Free Ride at the Speed of Light,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Physics (\$75); Central Intelligence Agency Award; Health Physics Society 2<sup>nd</sup> Place; ONR Award (\$50); SNAME Award; U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement; U.S. Metric Association Award; USNRC Honorable Mention

**Ziyao Wang** of Rockville, “Surviving: A Potential Target of Adoptive Immunotherapy for Cancer,” 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Medicine and Health; Society for In Vitro Biology Award; U.S. Army Honorable Mention; USPHS 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Justin Yu** of Silver Spring, “A Study on the Magnetocaloric Properties of Cr<sub>7</sub>Te<sub>8</sub> for Magnetic Refrigeration Applications,” Honorable Mention in Physics; U.S. Army Honorable Mention

The fair, run by ScienceMONTGOMERY, saw over 400 student participants this year. Blair magnet seniors who participated in the fair entered their Senior Research Projects (SRPs) under the guidance of magnet teacher Ms. Elizabeth Duval. Science fair judges awarded prizes to students in each of twelve categories. Monetary prizes were given to the first, second, and third place winners in each category. Furthermore, approximately fifty community organizations awarded additional prizes to students.

Award recipient Melodi Anahtar comments on her experience and thanks the Blair magnet, “The science fair is always an excellent experience; I've been participating in it for the past five years...I have the magnet program to thank for my success because the teachers are all very supportive, and through the program I have really developed an understanding of the scientific process, which I believe largely contributes to my success every year.” ISEF alternate Shilpa Kanaan adds, “Although I have been in research for several years, the magnet really pushed me to go above and beyond over this summer, to truly understand my project. The Science Fair provided me a great opportunity to showcase this work and I very much enjoyed the experience.”

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Fair director Captain Greg Neuschafer presided over the Montgomery County Science Fair awards ceremony in which ten Blair magnet students were honored. (Photo courtesy of Nuray Anahtar.)

## **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.

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