



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Board of
Directors:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2011

CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students
Receive Honors in U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Competition**

Silver Spring, MD—Alexander Briese of Silver Spring and Andrew Das Sarma of Potomac, seniors in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned the recognition of Honors in the 2011 U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Competition.

This contest, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, is designed to stimulate and promote achievement in high school chemistry. About 10,000 high school students nationally participated in the initial phase of testing at the local level. Based on results of this first test, Briese and Das Sarma were selected as the two students Blair was allowed to send to participate in the next (semifinal) level of competition, the national exam.

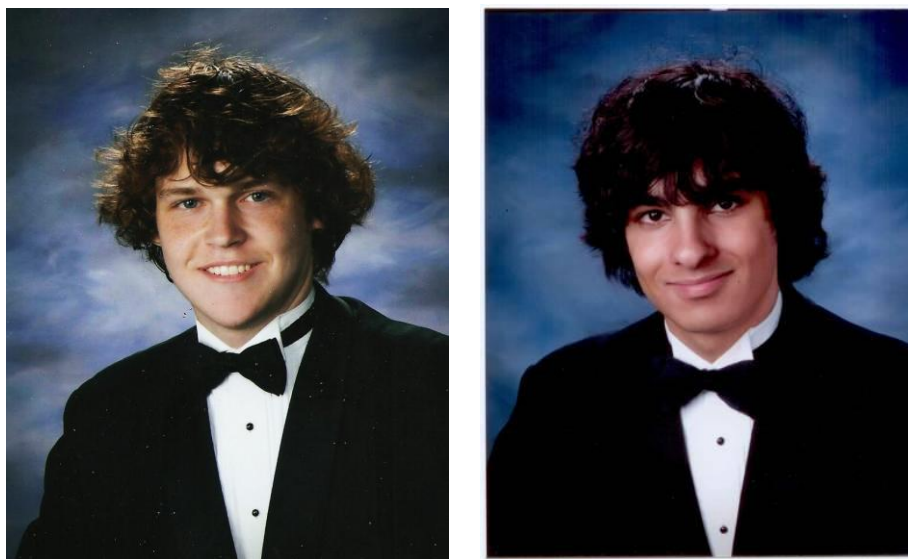
Das Sarma comments on the exam, “The Chemistry Olympiad semifinal competition was fun because it combined three different types of problems in one day-long exam—multiple choice problem-solving, long-answer theoretical/conceptual, and lab practical.”

Both Briese and Das Sarma qualified for other 2011 U.S. science Olympiad teams. Briese was selected as a National Finalist in the USA Biology Olympiad, and Das Sarma earned a spot on the traveling team representing the U.S. Physics Team. Mr. Tran Pham, Blair Magnet chemistry and mathematics teacher, serves as longtime coach for the Blair chemistry teams.

Address:

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

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



Alexander Briese (left) and Andrew Das Sarma (right) received the recognition of Honors in the 2011 U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Competition. (Photos courtesy of Kathleen Briese and Janet Das Sarma, respectively.)

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

###
