



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
July 28, 2011

CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student Alumnus Earns Silver Medal at International Physics Olympiad

Silver Spring, MD—Andrew Das Sarma of Potomac, a 2011 graduate of the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, was awarded a silver medal at the 42nd International Physics Olympiad. This competition among 393 pre-university physics students from 84 nations was held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 10-18 and consisted of both theoretical and experimental exams. Das Sarma's score at the contest was the second highest among all silver medalists.

Das Sarma was one of five students who represented the 2011 U.S. Physics Team as a member of the traveling team. Team USA brought home two gold and three silver medals, tying Romania for 11th place by medal count. China, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan tied for first place. However, when considering aggregate total score, the United States earned fifth place among all participating nations.

In addition to a ten-day training camp for all twenty members of the U.S. Physics Team, Das Sarma and the other four members of the traveling team were assigned problems to solve independently. Prior to this international competition, all members of the traveling team attended additional lab training at the University of Maryland at College Park in early July.

During the last decade, every member of the traveling team representing the U.S. Physics Team has earned a medal at the international competition. The U.S. team earned one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals at last year's competition in Zagreb, Croatia. Anand Oza, a 2010 Blair Magnet graduate, was awarded a silver medal. The previous year in Mérida Yucatán, México, the U.S. team brought home one silver and four gold medals, the same result as the team achieved the previous year in Hanoi, Vietnam. Edward Gan, a rising senior in the Blair magnet at the time, earned a gold medal at the 2008 competition.

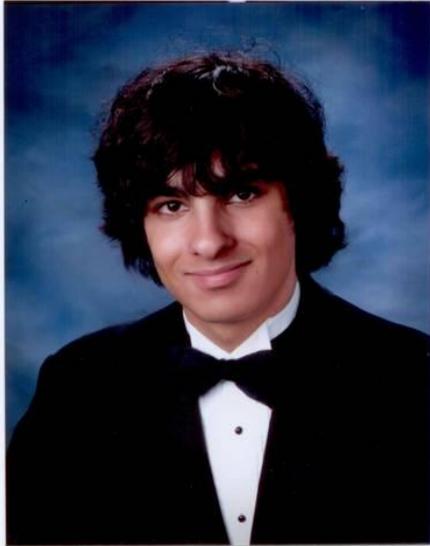
Explaining his love for physics, Das Sarma praises Blair Magnet physics and math teacher, Mr. James Schafer, "At every stage of my

Address:

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

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

development, physics had stood as the explanation to many of my questions. In third grade, I was fascinated with how electronic devices work and took to ripping them apart in my garage; physics explains the operation of circuits. In seventh grade, I was blown away by the massive power of modern jet engines; physics explains that, too. When I reached high school, I had an outstanding teacher, Mr. James Schafer, who filled all his classes with both rigorous theory and hands-on demonstrations of myriad physical phenomena.” Das Sarma will study physics and economics at Harvard University in fall.



42nd International Physics Olympiad Silver Medalist and Blair Magnet alumnus, Andrew Das Sarma.
(Photo courtesy of Janet Das Sarma.)

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.

###