Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.

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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Honored as Semifinalists in Prestigious Siemens Competition

Silver Spring, MD—Six Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program Seniors were named as Semifinalists in the 2011-12 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology on October 21. This prestigious annual award recognizes remarkable research by high school students nationally in the fields of math, science, and technology. Additionally, Siemens acknowledges Semifinalists with a school banner and a gift package. The competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the College Board.

The Blair Magnet semifinalists, their research titles, and mentors are as follows:
Arec Jamgochian of Wheaton, "Baryons and Baryonic Matter in 1+1 QCD with Large Nc and Heavy Quark limits" under Dr. Thomas Cohen of the University of Maryland College Park, Department of Physics;
Frederic Koehler of Silver Spring, “Quick and Efficient: Fast Algorithms for Completion Time and Batch Minimization on Multiple Machines” under Dr. Samir Khuller of the University of Maryland College Park, Department of Computer Science;
Maureen Lei of Potomac, “Impact of Changes in Future Anthropogenic Aerosol Emissions on Northern Hemispheric Regional Air Quality and Climate” under Dr. Mian Chin of the Laboratory for Atmospheres at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center;
Jessica Lu of Rockville, "Determination of Binding Energy Hotspots on a Broadly Neutralizing Antibody against HIV-1" under Dr. Baoshan Zhang of the Vaccine Research Center at NIH;
Ziyao Wang of Rockville, “Investigation of Transgenic T cell Receptor against Surviving and Its Potential Contribution to Leukemogenesis” under Dr.Yongzhi Cui and Dr.Crystal Mackall of the NCI Pediatric Oncology Branch at NIH; and
Andy Zhang of Potomac, “Identification of Genes Essential to Mammary Gland Development in Mice by Transcriptome Analysis of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells” under Dr. Chuxia Deng of the NIDDK Mammalian Genetics Section at NIH.

A record number of 2,436 students entered this premier national contest this fall, submitting 1,541 projects. Besides the six Blair Magnet Semifinalists, only four other Semifinalists hailed from the state of Maryland, all but one from the Montgomery County Public School system.

Wang thanks the Blair Magnet for this research opportunity, "I feel like doing biomedical research not only helped me understand the practical significance of the materials learned in class, but also opened my eyes to the diversity in scientific approaches…I'm really glad the magnet encourages us to become involved in research." Lei comments on her research experience, "I was lucky to have such an amazing Senior Research Project… I worked with some of the nicest, smartest people I have ever met, and I learned a great deal about atmospheric science and programming." Lu feels lucky to have worked on HIV research, "It's great to feel like your work actually makes a difference and to find yourself at the crossroads of biological research and a meaningful social cause." Finally, Zhang credits the Blair Magnet, "The challenging courses in the Magnet have pushed me to be the best that I can be. It's also been really fun because of the teachers and students that make the Magnet special."

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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