



# NEWS RELEASE

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May 31, 2013  
#12/13-208

## OLYMPIAD FEVER STRIKES FRANCISCO BRAVO MEDICAL MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

This has been a very rewarding year for the so-called “nerds” of Bravo Medical Magnet in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Four students have qualified as semifinalists in the USA Biology Olympiad, two in the American Chemical Society Olympiad, two in the American Mathematics Competitions, and one in the American Association of Physics Teacher’s Physics Olympiad.

Each year, the individual organizations host regional exams to select the top students, drawing as many as 15,000 students. From that group, semifinalists are chosen to represent the United States in the International Olympiad Competition held each summer. Typically, the top 5% of students in the country are selected as semifinalists.

The four Bravo students who qualified in biology were Bravo seniors Brian Tom and Elton Zhou, junior Oscar Cardenas, and sophomore Edward Guzman. Tom also was a semifinalist in biology his sophomore year. This is the first year for Zhou as a semifinalist, who has been one point away from qualifying for each of the past two years. Cardenas and Guzman both qualified for the first time and are already preparing to compete again next year. Both Tom and Zhou will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the fall.



*Left to right: Bravo Medical Magnet Teacher Michael Morgan, Students Edward Guzman, Elton Zhou, Zach Markos, Brian Tom, Oscar Cardenas and Gene Pak*

(more)

Tom also qualified as a semifinalist in the Chemistry Olympiad along with senior Zach Markos, who is headed to UCLA in the fall. Both were semifinalists last year as well, and received honors from the American Chemical Society for being among the top 100 chemistry students in the country.

In mathematics, Bravo seniors Markos and Gene Pak both qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME) Math Olympiad. Markos progressed to the final round both this year and last. It was Pak's first time qualifying. He will be attending the University of the Pacific this fall.

In physics, Markos qualified for the second year in a row. He was selected as one of the 20 students for Team USA and will attend the training camp this summer.

All of these students have been coached by long time Bravo Science Teacher and Science Department Chair Michael Morgan. In the last seven years, Morgan has coached 32 semifinalists in academic Olympiads.

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