GEARSEF 2021 Awards Ceremony Winners List (Senior Division)

SPECIAL AWARD RECOGNITIONS

American Psychological Association Award
This award recognizes the top project in the category of Behavior & Social Sciences. The winner will receive a certificate of recognition and a $50 cash award.

The winner is: Adrianna Orsi – Wetumpka High School

Auburn University's 100 Women Strong Achievement Award
Sponsored by: 100 Women Strong
This achievement award recognizes females that exemplify excellence through research in any category. Winners will receive the following -1st place $100 cash prize and a certificate, 2nd place $75 cash prize and a certificate, 3rd place $50 cash prize and a certificate.

The winners are:

1st place – Shemaiya Peak – Stanhope Elmore High School

2nd place – Olivia Raife – Stanhope Elmore High School

3rd place – Emma Sanford – Holtville High School

AU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Award
Sponsored by: AU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research in the field of chemistry or biochemistry. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Logan Brecknell & Rhett Pinkston – Wetumpka High School

AU Department of Geosciences Award
Sponsored by: AU Department of Geosciences
This award recognizes high achievement in the categories of geoscience, geology, and geography. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School

AU Physics Award for Ingenuity and Inventiveness
Sponsored by: AU Department of Physics
Physical principles underlie all of science. This award is given in recognition of an individual who demonstrated an understanding of the laws of physics and how to use them to interpret and understand the world around us. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Michael Fulmer – Wetumpka High School

FINAL 2020-2021

AU Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Award
Sponsored by: Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Award, Office of the Dean
This award will be given for a project in any category that demonstrates an innovative application of math or science to a challenge of our society. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Ashraf Mansour – Auburn High School

AU Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics Achievement Award
Sponsored by: The Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics – Auburn University
This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research by a female. It will be awarded to the top-scoring female in the senior division.   Winners of this award will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Adrianna Orsi – Wetumpka High School

Auburn University Biological Sciences Award for Most Outstanding Poster in Animal and Plant Science
Sponsored by: The Auburn University Biological Sciences Department.
This award recognizes an outstanding poster in the Animal and Plant Sciences category by a senior division student. The awardee will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Jade Adams – Central High School

Auburn University Biological Sciences Award for Most Outstanding Poster in Medicine and Health Science
Sponsored by: The Auburn University Biological Sciences Department.
This award recognizes an outstanding poster in the Medicine and Health Sciences category by a senior division student. The awardee will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Paxton Price – Holtville High School

AU Spirit of Excellence
Sponsored by: The Auburn University COSAM Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity
This award recognizes any student for any category considered an underrepresented minority in STEM (African Americans, American Indians including Native Alaskans, Hispanics and Native Pacific Islanders), or persons with disabilities. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Jorge Velasquez – Central High School

Biophysical Society Award
Sponsored by: The Biophysical Society
This award will be given to the student whose project shows great promise for innovation in a biophysics related field. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Ashraf Mansour – Auburn High School

Future Scientist Award
Sponsored by: AU College of Sciences and Mathematics, Dean's Office
The award will be given to a student, in any category, who demonstrated a complete, thorough and current understanding of a scientific topic during their interview. As such, this student shows great promise as a future researcher. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Naeim Mahjouri – Auburn High School

Innovation of Robotic Systems Award
Sponsored by: Southeastern Center of Robotics Education
This award will recognize a project from any category that demonstrates the greatest promise for innovation in the use of robotic systems. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Ashraf Mansour – Auburn High School

Most Outstanding Exhibit in Materials Science Award
Sponsored by: ASM Materials Education Foundation
This award will be given to the top project with a materials science theme. The winner will receive a certificate and a medallion to follow.

The winner is: Luke Tessier – Wetumpka High School

Mu Alpha Theta Award
This award is presented for the project that best demonstrated challenging, original, thorough, and creative investigation of a problem using mathematics. The winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

The winner is: Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School

NASA Earth System Science Award
This award will be given to the student whose project offers the greatest insight into earth's interconnected systems. The winner will receive a certificate of achievement.

The winner is: Shemaiya Peak – Stanhope Elmore High School

Naval Science Award
Sponsored by: Office of Naval Research
This award recognizes three students who demonstrated excellence in science research or engineering design. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement, a medallion, and a $50 gift card to follow.

The winners are:

Braydon Noh – Auburn High School

Naeim Mahjouri – Auburn High School

Regeneron Biomedical Science Award
Sponsored by: Regeneron
This award is given to top student scientists in grades 9-12 who conducted exceptional research in one of these six disciplines: Biochemistry, Biomedical & Molecular Biology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Computational Biology & Bioinformatics, Microbiology, Translational Medicine. The winner will receive a certificate and a $500 cash award.

The winner is: Adrianna Orsi

Ricoh Sustainable Development Award
This award recognizes the project that best reflects the principles of sustainability --balancing economic development with environmental responsibility. The winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

The winner is: Greta Beumer – Wetumpka High School

Society for Science & the Public Community Innovation Award
Sponsored by: Society for Science & the Public
This award recognizes students who seek to help mankind through science and engineering. The winner will receive a $500 cash award and a certificate in recognition of their project which will better humanity and improve conditions in the local community.

The winner is: Jaeyoung Lee

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Young Innovator Award
Sponsored by: Auburn University Chapter of SHPE
In an effort to encourage a lifelong enthusiasm for the sciences in traditionally underrepresented demographics, this award recognizes research excellence presented by a minority student from any category. The winner will receive a certificate and a $75 cash award.

The winner is: Alan Estrada – Wetumpka High School

Talent in Mathematics and Statistics Award
Sponsored by: AU Department of Mathematics and Statistics
This award will recognize a project, from any category, that demonstrated strong mathematical and statistical analysis. The winner will receive a certificate and a $100 cash award.

The winner is: Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School

Yale Science and Engineering Association Award
Sponsored by: Yale Science and Engineering Association
This award will be given to the most outstanding 11th grade project in the areas of computer science, engineering, physics, or chemistry. In extraordinary cases, it may be awarded to 10th or 12th grade. The winner will receive a certificate and a medallion to follow.

The winner is: Ahnaf Hossain – Auburn High School

Now we will shift gears and announce the placement winners of each category. A judging panel of over 40 scientists and engineers determined which projects scored highest in each category. In addition, the judges determined which projects should advance from GEARSEF to the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) in April by only awarding category medals to those projects meriting advancement to the state fair. Students who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd will receive a medal and certificate and automatically qualify to advance to the Alabama State Science Fair held virtually on April 9-10, 2021. In addition, the 1st place winner of each category will receive a $100 cash prize.

CATEGORY AWARDS

Category 100: Animal & Plant Sciences

    1st Jade Abrams – Central High School
    2nd Jarrett Huckaby – Central High School

Category 200: Behavioral & Social Sciences

    1st Adrianna Orsi – Wetumpka HS

Category 300: Cellular & Molecular Biology (NO PROJECTS ENTERED FOR SR DIVISION)

Category 400: Chemistry & Biochemistry, and Materials Sciences

    1st Luke Tessier – Wetumpka HS

Category 500: Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

1st Ashraf Mansour – Auburn High School

2nd Braydon Noh – Auburn High School

3rd Allen Wright – Wetumpka High School

Category 600/700: Energy, Earth and Environmental Sciences

1st Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School

2nd Naeim Mahjouri – Auburn High School

Category 800: Medicine and Health Sciences

1st Paxton Price – Holtville High School

2nd Whitney Culverhouse – Holtville High School

3rd Hailey Holbert – Wetumpka High School

Category 900: Physics and Astronomy

1st Michael Fulmer – Wetumpka High School

Category 1100: Math and Computer Science

1st Ahnaf Hossain – Auburn High School

Best of Fair Nominees – these students will participate in an additional interview to determine our Best of Fair Winners. An email was sent to Best of Fair Nominees with their assigned Zoom interview time on April 1, 2021.

This year's Best of Fair Nominees are (in no particular order):

Adrianna Orsi – Wetumpka High School
Braydon Noh – Auburn High School
Ashraf Mansour – Auburn High School
Naeim Mahjouri – Auburn High School
Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School
Luke Tessier – Wetumpka High School

GEARSEF will also advance our top three Best of Fair winners directly to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2021. This year's event will be held virtually again this year due to COVID-19. Auburn University will cover all expenses for three students to participate ISEF as representatives of GEARSEF at Auburn University. This year's Best of Fair winners are:

1st place – <u>Naeim Mahjouri – Auburn High School</u>

2nd place – <u>Jaeyoung Lee – Auburn High School</u>

3rd place – <u>Brayden Noh – Auburn High School</u>

Congratulations to all of our participants and winners!

A few notes for winners:

1.) This year's winners have received a variety of awards – some sponsored internally by Auburn University as well as others sponsored by other outside organizations. We will mail all certificates and medals to your school. Please note, some of these awards may have a specific requirement for follow up action (especially cash prizes). Directions and any additional forms, paperwork or instructions will be included in your award packet. Please pay close attention to all stated deadlines to avoid any issues.

2.) If you are advancing to the state science fair, we will send your paperwork to ASEF for you for SRC/IRB review. You will be contacted via email by the ASEF organizers with your specific day/time of your judges' interview and directions for logging into their Virtual Exhibit Hall – which is conveniently setup almost exactly like GEARSEF. We wish you the best of luck in your next level of competition!