FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today the Gorgas Scholarship Committee announced the rankings of the finalists of the 2021 Alabama Science Scholar Search. The final competition was held during the 98th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science held virtually and hosted by the University of South Alabama.

The winner of the first-place tuition grant of $4000 was: Benjamin Davis, Auburn High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Jacque Middleton.

2nd Place and winner of a tuition grant of $3000 was: Jaeyoung “Daniel” Lee, Auburn High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Jacque Middleton.

3rd Place and winner of a tuition grant of $1500 (each) was a tie: Cary Xiao, Alabama School of Math and Science, Teacher-Sponsor: Elisa Rambo; and Akshat Yaparla, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Rebecca Thrash.

4th Place and winner of a tuition grant of $1000 (each) was a tie: Hannah Ashraf, The Altamont School, Teacher-Sponsor: Katrina Dahlgren; and Michael Fulmer, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi.

Unranked Finalists:

Burbank, Chase, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

Cron, Remy, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Rebecca Thrash

Estrada, Alan, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi
Hawthorne, Alissa, Murphy High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Rebecca Mullins

Holbert, Hailey, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

Pyles, Avery, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

The rankings were established by a panel of judges consisting of department heads, deans, and professors from many of the leading universities and industries in Alabama. Winners and finalists in the Gorgas Contest receive additional offers of tuition scholarships to colleges and universities in Alabama for the study of science. The Gorgas Scholarship Program is named for General William Crawford Gorgas, the Alabama physician who conquered yellow fever in the Panama Canal Zone and later became the Surgeon General of the United States Army. The purposes of the Gorgas competition are to promote interest in science and to aid in the education of promising students.

Information on the annual competition and awards may be found on the website at http://alabamajunioracademyofscience.org/home/gorgas-scholarship-competition/. For further information, contact Ellen Buckner, PhD, RN, CNE, AE-C, FNAP, Chairman, Gorgas Scholarship Competition, ellen.buckner@samford.edu OR ebbuckner@gmail.com, or by phone (205) 910-9877.