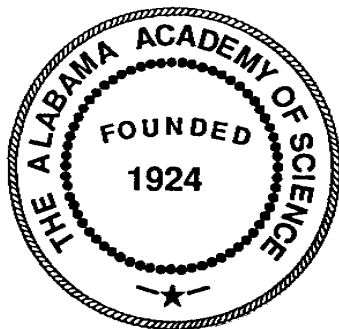




AGENDA
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
Fall 2025, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 PM Saturday, October 4, 2025
Faulkner University Montgomery Campus
E.L. Perry Dining/Conference Room

A. Call to order – Matthew Edwards

- I. Approval of minutes of the Spring 2025 Executive Committee Meeting (see below, pp. 5 - 8)
– Matthew Edwards
- II. Review of Action Item List
 1. 2026 Annual AAS Meeting (February 27 – 28) at Faulkner University
 - Introduction of Guests and Local Arrangements Update (See C1 below p. 45 in Committee Reports) – Uduak Afangideh
 - Motion to adopt last year's pricing, motion to open abstract submissions October 15th, close on January 15th – Ron Hunsinger

- AAS Member \$160.00
- AAS Member-Special Combo-1 (Registration + Awards Banquet) \$210
- Non-Member \$195.00
- AAS Non-Member-Special Combo-1 (Registration + Awards Banquet) \$245
- Student Member Special Combo-3 (Registration + Awards Banquet) \$115
- Student Member (Registration) \$65
- Non-Member Vendor
- AJAS Parent/Guest Free
- AJAS Competitor
- Awards Banquet Only Registrant. \$55
- Awards Banquet Only Non-Registrant. \$60
- I wish to Pay by Check

2. Registration portal to open October 15th – Ron Hunsinger
3. Updates from Local Arrangements – Ken Roblee
 - a. Group Registration System form is available.
4. JAAS – a. New Editorial Staff – Ron Hunsinger (see Executive Director Report below, pp. 42 - 43)
 - b. Moving the JAAS to South Alabama Digital Commons – Jack Shelly-Tremblay
 - c. Free, manageable by anyone, supported by librarians

5. The Motion to establish an AAS Record Retention and Archiving Policy, was described in Archivist report (See C-11 below), Action – Passed.
6. Awards nominations. Matthew Edwards - review of the awards process (see Nominating Committee Report below, C-12).
7. Adriel D. Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund Issue – Ron Hunsinger

It was recommended that gifts for the Adriel D. Johnson Endowed fund be placed in our \$50,000 treasury bill investment fund (see Report of the Executive Director, B13, section on Money Market Account: Details and Rationale as Explained to Us by PNC Bank) and tracked by the treasurer in a special subaccount for the Johnson Scholarship. Donations would be accepted until the corpus reaches \$3,500, at which point Jim Sumpter would invest the Johnson subaccount into a higher-yield annuity and oversee the fund as it grew to \$25,000, after which increased cash awards could be given to recipients based on a set portion of the corpus.

However, questions have been raised as to whether this is a good idea at this time. First, the scholarship will tie up a significant amount of money at a time when the assets may be needed for the operating expenses (see below). Second, the Adriel D. Johnson Award is prestigious enough without any cash awards. Recipients don't need the monetary add-on. Just a nice plaque would suffice. – ACTION NEEDED??

Event Liability Insurance for 2026 Annual Meeting -	\$748
IRS Late Penalty for 2023	\$370
IRS Late Penalty for 2024	\$2475
New Event Planner Service	\$1699
Possible Funding of the AJAS	\$12,000

8. Support technician – We recommend as of November 01, the \$250/month stipend for Jack's role as AED will be redirected to Ms. Nora Ellen Whitten (See



resume updated
September 2025.doc

resume) to help with generating various reports and to be trained to handle the complexity of managing the logistical and technical aspects of our annual meeting, which involves tasks like registration, abstract submissions, and the creation of the program booklet.

At the beginning of the calendar year 2026, we will temporarily abandon the position of AED and direct the \$3000 stipend to Ms. Whitten on a \$25 dollar/hour as needed basis to help with booklet and program preparation for the Annual EC and Annual AAS Meetings.

9. We recommend the adoption of a new Events Planning Company entitled Four Waves which can provide us with the most modern platform to handle the complexity of managing the logistical and technical aspects of our annual meeting, which involves tasks like registration, abstract submissions, and the creation of the program booklet. See this link <https://www.loom.com/share/d8aa81fb4771431b8a9d299c1a207111> for a demonstration of Four Waves' capabilities.

The cost of switching to Four Waves would be as follows:

- Advanced Plan - \$1,699 (value of \$2,997 USD) + transaction fee in exchange for being listed as a sponsor:
- Unlimited Registrations
- Complete Event Website (images + additional website pages)
- Conference Schedule
- Launch support (call with Four Waves + website review before publishing)
 - Participant-only content (e.g., a presentation page for intellectual property)
 - Email Communication
 - Name Tags Generator
 - Conference Booklet (automatically generate a Word document with all abstracts)
- 1% transaction fee:
 - (usually 3%) Applied by Fourwaves on all credit card payments.
**Payment gateway fees also apply.*
- Unlimited abstracts add-on
 - Receive and manage an unlimited number of submissions.
- Peer review module add-on
 - Import your list of evaluation committee members
 - Create a custom evaluation form
 - Distribute submissions to committee members
 - Select the highest-rated submissions
 - Share feedback with authors

B. Officer Reports

1. Board of Trustees
2. President

Ken Marion
Matthew Edwards

3. President -Elect	Ronald N. Hunsinger
4. Second Vice President	Uduak Afangideh
5. Secretary	Malia Fincher
6. Treasurer	Bettina Riley
7. Journal Editor-At-Large	Jack Shelly-Tremblay
8. Counselor to AJAS	Mark Jones
9. Science Fair Coordinator	Virginia Vilardi
10. Science Olympiad Coordinator	Mary Lou Ewald
11. Counselor to AAAS	Steve Watts
12. Section Officers	
I. Biological Sciences	Jean-Pierre Ardit/Cecilia Johnson
II. Chemistry	Humayun Kabir
III. Physics & Mathematics	Padma Guggilla
IV. Engineering & Computer Science	Ravi Gollapalli
V. Social Sciences	Cynthia Lovelace
VI. Anthropology	Jordan Kiper
VII. STEM Education	Uduak Afangideh/Diann Jordan
VIII. Environmental and Earth Science	Mojtaba Enayati
IX. Health Sciences	Jean-Pierre Ardit
X. Bioethics & History/Philosophy of Science	Dennis Sansom
Special Section Alabama Honors Scholars	Douglas Marshall
Executive Officer	Ronald (Ron) N. Hunsinger

C. Committee Reports

1. Local Arrangements 2026 AAS Meeting Faulkner Local Arrangements (Uduak Afangideh, Jim Baker, Shelley Vardaman, Mark Brennehan)	
2. Budget and Finance	Ken Marion
3. Membership and Development	John Shelley-Tremblay, Matthew Edwards
4. Research	Brian Burnes
5. Long-Range Planning	Akshaya Kumar, Acting
6. Auditing, Senior Academy	Budget and Finance
7. Auditing, Junior Academy	Budget and Finance (Mark Jones)
8. Editorial Board & Associate Journal Editors	Jack Shelley-Tremblay
9. Place and Date of Meeting	Uduak Afangideh
10. Science, Public Policy, and Public Relations	Brian Burnes and Scott Brande
11. Archives	Larry Krannich
12. Gardner Award and AAS Fellows	Matthew Edwards
13. Carmichael Award	Richard Hudiburg
14. Resolutions	Brian Burnes
15. Nominating Committee	Uduak Afrangideh
16. Mason Scholarship	Mickie Powell
17. Gorgas Scholarship Program	Ellen Buckner
18. Electronic Media	John (Jack) Shelley-Tremblay/Diann Jordan

D. Old Business

E. New Business

F. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE Executive Committee Meeting Held via Zoom and at Troy University Montgomery 2/26/2025 6:00 PM CST Meeting was called to order by Jack Shelley-Tremblay and Vinoy Thomas Those in attendance were Jack Shelley-Tremblay, Malia Fincher, Ken Marion, Ellen Buckner, Virginia Vilardi, Carmin Vilardi, Vineeth Vijayan, Renjith Rajan Pillai, Robert Villardi, Ken Roblee, Jean-Pierre Arditi, Doug Marshall, Cynthis Lovelace, Adriane Ludwick, Uduak Afangideh, Matthew Edwards, Stefanie Varghese, Diann Jordan, Ron Hunsinger, Vinoy Thomas, Mark Caulkins, Camille Westmont, Byunghoon Lee, Stephen Babaloo, Lauren Rast, Mohit Anand, Akshaya Kumar, Tenzig Ingty, Padmaja Guggilla

The meeting minutes from the Fall 2024 Executive Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved. Jack Shelley-Tremblay led a meeting discussing the spring AAS meeting at Troy University in Montgomery, including the parking, event arrangements, agenda for the meeting, and detailed plans.

The slate of new AAS leaders was presented and their service acknowledged.

Ron Hunsinger was approved as the new Executive Director and Jack Shelley-Tremblay will be the associate director.

The meeting also covered updates on next year's meeting at Faulkner University. Meeting hosts are sought for 2027 and 2028. There will be a major change in schedule next year, with the meeting moving to Friday and Saturday.

The resolutions were presented and approved by a unanimous vote.

The officer reports and section chair reports were presented in writing.

Timing of regional science fairs was discussed.

An update on the Alabama Science Trail was presented by Ellen Buckner.

A position statement is being prepared by members of the AAS about the state of science in our country.

Three resolutions were approved. Please find the details attached. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

A Resolution of Recognition for Troy University at Montgomery to honor and recognize Troy University at Montgomery, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the Local Arrangements Committee for their outstanding efforts in hosting the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science, Alabama Junior Academy of Science, and the Gorgas Science Competition on February 22-23, 2025.

Whereas, Dr. Kenneth Roblee, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Statistics, and Dr. Robert Vilardi, Lecturer in Mathematics and Statistics, Troy University at Montgomery, did chair the Local Arrangements Committee and coordinated all arrangements for this highly successful 2025 Annual Meeting:

Whereas Troy University at Montgomery Administration did support the meeting with excellent facilities on their beautiful campus.

Whereas Troy University at Montgomery did provide outstanding hospitality throughout the meeting,

Whereas Troy University at Montgomery faculty and staff generously provided their time to assure the success of the meeting.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Alabama Academy of Science honors and recognizes Troy University at Montgomery and the Local Arrangements Committee for their outstanding efforts in organizing and conducting this 102nd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science, February 27-28, 2025.

Be it further resolved that this Resolution is saved in the permanent minutes of the Academy, and a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Troy University at Montgomery, as adopted on this 27th day of February 2025 by the Alabama Academy of Science, Thomas (Mar 5, 2025, 09:12 CST)

Vinoy Thomas, President

Ronald N. Hunsinger, Executive Director

A Resolution in Recognition of Distinguished Service by Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay

Whereas the mission of the Alabama Academy of Science is to promote and support all aspects of science and science education in Alabama, including meetings for increased cooperation and fellowship among its members, the publication of scientific works, and the distribution of scholarships and awards to deserving scientists from Alabama;

Whereas Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Academy of Science from 2023-2025, and served as the President of the Alabama Academy of Science from 2022-2023, has held offices and positions too numerous to recount, has mentored up and coming officers and members of the Academy as well as generations of students.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Alabama Academy of Science honors and recognizes Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay for his outstanding service to science in managing and sustaining the future of the Alabama Academy of Science, and for exemplifying the role model of a scientist of the highest caliber.

Be it further resolved that this Resolution is saved in the permanent minutes of the Academy, and a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay, as adopted on this 27th day of February 2025 by the Alabama Academy of Science.

Vinoy Thomas, President Ronald Hunsinger, Executive Director

A Resolution in Recognition of Distinguished Service by Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport

Whereas, Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport, a distinguished member of the Alabama Academy of Science, has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to the advancement of scientific knowledge through groundbreaking research in field of biology, particularly botanical science.

Whereas Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport's commitment to mentorship and fostering the next generation of scientists within the Academy has been exemplary.

Whereas, Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport has given leadership to the Alabama Academy of Science by serving as its 2nd-, 1st-Vice President, and President.

Whereas, Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport was awarded a Fellowship in the Alabama of Science, an award conferred upon an individual for noteworthy contributions to the State Academy and for keeping the highest academic, professional, and scholarly standards.

Whereas Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport was honored in 2007 as Alabama Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Alabama Academy of Science honors and recognizes Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport for his outstanding service to science in managing and sustaining the future of the Alabama Academy of Science, and for exemplifying the role model of a scientist of the highest caliber; Be it further resolved that this Resolution is saved in the permanent minutes of the Academy and a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Dr. Lawrence J. Davenport, As adopted on this 27th day of February 2025 by the Alabama Academy of Science.

Vinoy Thomas, President Ronald Hunsinger, Executive Director

Business for the 2025 Fall EC Meeting

B. Officer Reports

Board of Trustees Report

B-1

No Report

B-2

President's Report

B-2

President Report

Nothing to report at this time. However, I am looking forward to helping to expand the outreach of AAS to all colleges and universities within the state of Alabama including the Research Universities, Junior Colleges and all schools in between.

Respectfully submitted by,
Matthew E. Edwards, President

First Vice President Report

B-3

See the Executive Director Report

Second Vice President Report

2nd Vice President Report

As 2nd Vice President, I have participated in several key projects and initiatives including

1. working closely with the Executive Director and Associate Executive Director to assist with the planning and organization of the Fall 2025 Executive Committee (EC) meeting. My role included coordinating logistics and supporting the overall strategic direction for the event.
2. I attended Zoom sessions focused on evaluating different companies that would provide event insurance for the Alabama Academy of Science to possibly engage in future events.
3. I began my responsibilities on the nominating committee by receiving some early nominations. This committee is composed of myself, the current President, and the First Vice President. Together, we are preparing to take on leadership responsibilities and ensure a thorough nomination process. Our work on the nominating committee will culminate in presenting a full slate of nominees for vacancies on the Appointed Committees 2026-2027 list. This slate will be submitted for approval at the 2026 Annual AAS meeting.

Secretary Report

See minutes of last Executive meeting, A-2.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE September 2025 Interim Assests Report

	Assests
AAS Investment Account, 9-18-25	\$49,860.86
AAS Money Market Account, 9-18-25	-1.73
AAS Checking Account, 9-18-25	33,796.97
Less: checks not cleared	-2,367.88
AAS PAYPAL Account, 9-15-25	646.77
AJAS Checking Account, 9-15-25	10,603.03
GORGAS Investment Account, 9-17-25	284,848.22
Total All Accounts	<u><u>\$377,386.24</u></u>

	Reserves (Dedicated funds in AAS bank accounts)
Science Fair (ISEF)	\$24,820.70
Hayes AJAS Scholarship (est.)	7,500.00
	Approximate
Gorgas Scholarship	7,873.42
Mason Scholarship	1,000.00
Adriel Johnson Scholarship	489.56
Total Reserves	<u><u>\$41,194.12</u></u>

Cash Assets - AAS Checking, AAS Investment, Money Market & PayPal	\$81,934.99
Less Reserve Funds	(<u>\$41,194.12</u>)
Balance - Cash Assets	<u><u>\$40,740.87</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

Assets

AAS Money Market Account (2024 Transactions on page 2)	\$26,918.59
AAS Checking Account (2024 Transactions on page 3)	34,034.45
AAS PAYPAL Account (2024 Transactions on page 4)	2,241.52
AJAS Checking Account (2024 Transactions on page 5)	19,704.00
GORGAS Checking Account - Closed July 2024 (2024 Transactions on page 6)	0.00
GORGAS Investment Account* (Transactions on page 7)	290,648.00
Total All Accounts	<u>\$373,546.56</u>

*Gorgas Investment Account is based on 12-31-24 portfolio balance.

Reserves (Dedicated funds in AAS bank accounts)

Science Fair (ISEF)	\$19,114.49
Hayes AJAS Scholarship (est.)	7,500.00
 Gorgas Scholarship	 8,806.37
Mason Scholarship	1,000.00
Adriel Johnson Scholarship	489.56
Total Reserves	<u>\$36,420.86</u>

2024 YTD balance (AR due in the amount of \$,1,308.88 and \$,2,267.24
Approximate
Bank balance transfer plus 2024 scholarships to be disbursed in future periods per student's requests
Andria Colvell - 2024 Award to be paid for spring 2025 semester

Cash Assets - AAS Checking & Money Market & PayPal	\$63,194.56
Less Reserve Funds	(\$36,420.86)
Balance - Cash Assets	<u>\$26,773.70</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

AAS Money Market Account	
1-1-24 Balance	\$26,915.90
ACTIVITY	
Interest	2.69
12-31-24 Balance	<u><u>\$26,918.59</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

AAS Checking Account

01/01/24 - 12/31/24

Category

Revenue

Annual Meeting Income	\$23,072.69
Dues Income	4,640.20
JAAS Subscriptions	
Donations	3,061.94
Royalties	158.31
Publication Income	
Science Fair	46,896.46
Gorgas Funds	12,706.37
Total Revenue	<u>\$90,535.97</u>

Expenditures

Annual Meeting Expenses (includes Awards)	\$9,924.78
Research Grants	500.00
Carmichael Award	0.00
Mason Scholarship	1,000.00
Hayes Scholarship - AJAS - 4th Place Scholarships	1,000.00
Gorgas Scholarship	3,900.00
Science Fair	47,197.31
Honorarium	9,098.33
Meeting Expenses	0.00
Accounting Fees	800.00
Office Expenses	137.73
Publication Expenses	0.00
Travel Expenses	407.26
PayPal/Mailchimp Fees/Expenses	724.64
Video Production	2,500.00
Dues, Fees, Memberships	100.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$77,290.05</u>

Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	<u><u>\$13,245.92</u></u>
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Checking Balance as of 1-1-24	\$20,488.53
Refund pending of deposit in error	300.00
Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	<u>13,245.92</u>
Checking Balance as of 12-31-24	<u><u>\$34,034.45</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

AAS PAYPAL Account

01/01/24 - 12/31/24

Category

Revenue

Annual Meeting Income	\$13,388.53
Dues Income	5,079.71
Donations	1,600.01
Science Fair	30,364.86

Expenditures

PayPal Related Fees	(443.74)
Transfers to General Checking	(48,113.95)
Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	<u><u>\$1,875.42</u></u>

PayPal Balance as of	
1-1-24	\$366.10
Difference - Revenue less	
Expenditures	1,875.42
PayPal Balance as of	
12-31-24	<u><u>\$2,241.52</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

AJAS CHECKING ACCOUNT

01/01/24 - 12/31/24

Category

Revenue

Grant	\$15,103.26
Total Revenue	<u>\$15,103.26</u>

Expenditures

Director	\$7,442.10
Travel	1,083.20
Annual Conference	3,567.00
Dues, Substitute Teachers	276.72
Office Equipment, Software, Expenses	2,939.85
Total Expenditures	<u>\$15,308.87</u>

Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	<u><u>-\$205.61</u></u>
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Checking Balance as of 1-1-24	\$19,909.61
Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	-205.61
Checking Balance as of 12-31-24	<u><u>\$19,704.00</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

Gogras Checking

01/01/24 - 7/31/24

Category

Revenue

Investment	\$5,000.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

Expenditures

Scholarships	
Annual Conference	\$2,000.00
Travel & Poster Awards	2,435.00
Bank Fees	136.54
Office Supplies	45.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4,616.54</u>
Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	<u><u>\$383.46</u></u>

Checking Balance as of 1-1-24	\$822.91
Difference - Revenue less Expenditures	383.46
Account closed, balance transferred to AAS checking account	<u>-1,206.37</u>
Checking account balance as of 7-31-24	
Account closed July 2024	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 (Cash Basis)

Gorgas Investment Account

2023 Beginning Balance
Dividends
Less: Disbursements
2023 Ending Balance

2024 Beginning Balance
Dividends
Less: Disbursements
2024 Ending Balance

_____ **\$290,648.00**

Journal Editor Report

Quick report from the journal editor ... backdated issues for Vol 94 #1 and #2 published. Vol 95 #1 also about ready to go (abstracts from 2024 meeting). Vol 95 #2 already has two papers reviewed and ready ... I am hoping to publish it on time this year by November. Also, I met with assistant editors who have helped streamline the online review process.

Counselor to Alabama Junior Academy of Science Report

B 8 Report by the director of AJAS 2025, MT Jones

The following was submitted as our 2025 technical to justify this year's grant. The final amount we are asking for reimbursement is 13891. The grant this year is for two years of proposal and the limit was removed and averages were given as guidance. We submitted for the amount of 16204 and 16304. This increase was for some office equipment, an increase in student transportation and an increase in food cost. The added food cost was in response to inflation and the fact that this category is the most volatile from location to location. The technical report was submitted as below with one notable difference from previous years: All reference to under-represented students was removed from questions and answers. The report was submitted as follows:

Regional Design

- 1) Provide a detailed step-by-step description of the student application process for this region. Include a timeline of events and what materials were submitted by students during the process.

Students register online for an optional sub regionals held at an AMSTI site. If they participate, students submit a recording of a 12 min ppt presentation that judges at local the sites review. At regionals, up to 60 students are invited to present and register through ideal-logic where they submit their abstract, paper and SOA. If more than 60 submissions occur, the papers are divided into 5 categories and judged to fill 12 slots in each of those five categories for regional JSHS competition. The five categories are: Engineering, computer and math; environmental science; life science; medicine health and social science; and physical science. At regionals, we use a modified JSHS judging rubric, which is included as documentation with this report. At state, we do use the JSHS judging rubric and the supplied SOA form.

- 2) Describe this region's process for selecting students who will be invited to present at the event.

We have 5 categories in the morning with 12 slots in each. Students are chosen from local rankings and their category pick and placed in regional categories. Categories that overflow leads to students being moved, when their project allows, to balance the categories so that we have 12 participants in 5 categories before lunch at our regional event. These 12 slots are judged using the abstract and then the full paper in order to determine 60 total participants. Each category has judges and the JSHS judging rubric is used to select a winner in each category. Then after lunch the 5 category winners compete head-to-head in front of judges from each category and are ranked 1-5.

- 3) List any planning and/or collaborating tools (ex. Microsoft Teams, G-Suite, etc.) used to organize this regional event.

We use zoom to meet and zoom for the students to record their local presentations. Zoom compresses the recordings well and most students and local faculty are proficient in it. I also have a Gizmo application where I recruit students to brainstorm ideas. Right now, I have 2 Title 1 classes enrolled and a homeschool group from Huntsville.

- 4) Did this region incorporate sub-regional or feeder events as part of the regional JSHS process?

a) **Yes**

b) No

The questions below apply only to those who answer YES for question 6

- 5) Does the Regional Director have a formal contract with sub-regional administrators?

a) Yes

b) **No**

- 6) How did sub-regional participants register to compete?

a) Regional Ideal-Logic registration page

b) **Through independent sub-regional registration websites**

c) Paper applications at the sub-regional level

d) They did not register

e) Other: _____

- 7) Does the Regional Director receive participation data/reports from sub-regional hosts?

a) **Yes**

b) No

8) Do your regional reporting numbers include sub-regional data?

a) Yes

b) **No**

9) Please provide a spreadsheet listing sub-regional hosts using the following format:

Host/Organization Name, POC First name, Last name, Contact number, Email address.

Local	Faculty	Email & phone	AMSTI	Email & phone
Alabama State University				
Ashley Brock		abrock@alasu.edu 334) 229-4800	Dede Inge	dede.inge@wccs.edu
		from thrash	Tiffany Larcheveaux	tlarcheveaux@alasu.edu
Athens State University				
Bryan Kennedy Susan Herring Jing Chen		Jing.Chen@athens.edu u 256-233-6501	Sara Cline	Sara.Cline@athens.edu
		Contacted and discussed	Kristi Heath bio	kristi.heath@amsti.org
Auburn University				
Mary Lou Ewald Jessica Gilpin		ewaldml@auburn.edu u jag0038@auburn.edu u (334) 844-5769		
Jacksonville State University				
Donna Perygin		dperygina@jsu.edu 256-782-5232	Roseanne Green	crgreen@jsu.edu
		from thrash	Krystal Milam bio	kmilam@jsu.edu
Troy University				
			Sonya McGlaughlin bio	sdmclaughlin@troy.edu 334-670-3798

University of Alabama			
Kevin Shaughnessy		Lisa Clark	klark@ua.edu (205) 348-0444
University of Alabama at Birmingham			
Mickie Powell	mpowell@uab.edu (205) 975-2524	Emily Menard Jill Chambers Eric Lambert Tina Hendrickson	jcham@uab.edu lambert2@uab.edu
University of Alabama in Huntsville			
dean-Rob Griffin COS-Marie Heflin	science.outreach@uah.edu		
		Charles Holloway chem	charles.holloway@uah.edu 256.824.6156
University of Montevallo			
Cynthia Tidwell	tidwellc@montevallo.edu (205) 665-6482	Stephen Shivers	sshivers@montevallo.edu
University of North Alabama			
Brenda Webb		Candace Golliver	cfgolliver@una.edu 256-765-6908
University of South Alabama			
David Nelson	dnelson@southalabama.edu (251) 460-6168		
		Tracy Stallings bio Lou Richards phys	tkstallings@southalabama.edu ularichardson@southalabama.edu

10) Give a brief description of the structure of sub-regionals in relation to the overall regional competition.

At sub-regionals students are ranked and the top 60 are invited to regionals to fit 12 in each of 5 categories. At sub-regionals, students submit a 12 min recording that is graded with the JSHS judging rubric. Then they virtually meet as a group, introduce their topic and the participants

defend their project for 6 minutes. From this the students are ranked and provided feedback. I place the highest ranked students in the 5 categories for state, up to 12 per category and try to move students around that have topics that could be presented in multiple categories so that I have 5 categories with 12 participants in each for regionals.

11) Are any portions of the regional funds used for sub-regional activities?

a) Yes

i. Please explain:

b) **No**

Participant Numbers & Demographics

In this section, all reported numbers should match the region's Ideal-Logic registration information. If you did not track a particular item in Ideal-Logic, you can still report the number with a note indicating not in Ideal-Logic. There are several reports on your Ideal-Logic dashboard intended to help with this section. Some reports may need to be run twice – once for invited students and once for those not invited – and then combined. Please reach out to projectmanager@jshs.org with questions or requests for assistance with Ideal-Logic.

- 1) How many Student Participants (students that conducted research and/or submitted research for consideration at the regional level) **applied** to your regional event? **91**
- 2) How many Student Participants (students that conducted research and/or submitted research for consideration at the regional level) **were invited** to present at your regional event? **61**
(one set of partners)

In this section, you will be reporting how many of each group participated at the regional event. Report data using numerical formatting except for “NA” where not applicable or “NR” for not recorded.

- 3) K-12 Teachers: **6**
- 4) College/university faculty or other personnel, including volunteers, judges, and guests: **57**
- 5) Department of Defense (DoD) Scientists & Engineers, including volunteers, judges, and guests: **2**
- 6) Other guests, including student observers and parents: **22**

Please review the [JSHS Definition of Underrepresented Populations.](#)

Regional Participants Not Registered in Ideal-Logic

- 1) Does this region have data to report for participants not registered through Ideal-Logic?

a) **Yes**

b) No

The questions below only apply to regions who select YES for question 1

2) How was this data collected?

a) Paper applications

b) **Registration through a website outside of Ideal-Logic**

c) Internal collections (email, Excel, etc.)

d) Other: _____

In this section, you will be reporting how many of each group acted as or applied as a participant outside of the regional Ideal-Logic registration. Report data using numerical formatting except for “NA” where not applicable or “NR” for not recorded.

How many of each Non-Ideal-Logic participant group enrolled in the program?

3) Student participants. These are students that did not register through Ideal-Logic but conducted research and/or submitted research for consideration at the regional level. **31**

4) High school students **excluding** those that submitted research (grades 9-12). This includes student observers and guests. **0**

5) DoD STEM Professionals, including judges, speakers, and guests. **0**

6) Other guests. **0**

Participating Organizations

How many organizations participate in or contribute to this regional program? Report data in the following categories.

- 1) DoD Laboratories:
- 2) DoD/Military Installations (other than DoD Labs):
- 3) Other collaborating organizations (educational agencies, professional associations, external sponsors, etc.)

Alabama High Schools:



Alabama School of Fine Arts	Birmingham	<u>Hungsin</u>	Chin	hchin@asfa.k12.al.us
Alabama School Of Fine Arts	Birmingham	<u>Richa</u>	Templin	rtemplin@asfaschool.org
Alabama School of Fine Arts	Birmingham	Walter	<u>Uhoya</u>	wuhoya@asfaschool.org
Alabama School of Fine Arts	Birmingham	<u>Dreama</u>	White	dwhite@asfa.k12.al.us
Alabama School of Fine Arts	Vestavia Hills	Mary	Williams	mwilliams@asfa.k12.al.us
Alabama School of Math and Science	Mobile	Grey	Gaillard	ggaillard@asms.net
Alabama School of Math and Science	Mobile	Natalie	<u>Ortell</u>	nortell@asms.net
Alabama School of Math and Science	Mobile	Drew	Gentry	AGentry@asms.net
Auburn High School	Auburn	Dana	<u>LeVine</u>	dnl0010@auburn.edu
Auburn High School	Auburn	Jacque	Middleton	jmiddleton@auburnschools.org
Auburn High School	Auburn	John	Parsons	jmiddleton@auburnschools.org
Hoover High School	Hoover	Janet	Ort	jort@hoover.k12.al.us
Islamic Academy of Alabama	Hoover	<u>Hadam</u>	<u>Benachou</u>	hadam.benachou@gmail.com
James Clemens High School	Madison	Shelby	Treadway	kstreadway@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Loveless Academic Magnet Program	Montgomery	<u>Phalanda</u>	Johnson	phalanda.johnson@mps.k12.al.us
Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School	Montgomery	David	Boone	booned@upmc.edu
Montgomery Academy	Alabama, Montgomery,	Yue	Cui	geniuswukong@hotmail.com
Montgomery Academy	Alabama	Jay	Rye	jay_rye@montgomeryacademy.org
Murphy High School	Mobile	Julie	<u>Prerost</u>	jprerost@mcpss.com
Northridge High School	Tuscaloosa	Morgan	Bishop	mbishop@tusc.k12.al.us
Northridge High School	Tuscaloosa	Erin	Heck	eheck@tusc.k12.al.us
Oakwood Adventist Academy	Huntsville	<u>Thomasa</u>	Henry	thenry@myoaa.org
Ramsay IB High School	Birmingham	Nicole	Dumas	ndumas@bhm.k12.al.us
Ramsay IB High School	Birmingham	Lindsey	Hall	Lhall2@bhm.k12.al.us
<u>Rehobeth</u> High School	Dothan	Laura	Tomlin	laura.tomlin@austin.utexas.edu
UMS-Wright Preparatory School	Mobile	Nancy	<u>Hilbun</u>	nhilbun@ums-wright.org
Valley Leadership Academy	Huntsville	<u>Teandra</u>	<u>Pfeil</u>	tlpfeil@gmail.com
Wetumpka High School	Wetumpka	Virginia	<u>Vilardi</u>	vavilardi@gmail.com

Alabama Colleges and Universities: Alabama State University, Athens State University, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama in Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of North Alabama, University of Montevallo, and University of South Alabama. *note – each year we have a conference and there may be one other university or college that participates.

In addition, housed at many of the universities are the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative. There are 11 AMSTI sites set up at universities from around the state. Through the Alabama Academy of Science (AAS), 11 faculty contacts and 11 AMSTI site specialists collaborate to support 11 sub-regional competitions. Alabama Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) is a position within the AAS. The AAS has an annual conference that AJAS then runs the JSHS regional competition. We also use mailing lists from Advanced Placement central, which is a state-wide program that supports AP teachers in Alabama. At our regional competition is also another competition called the Gorgas scholarship competition, which is for seniors, but we have many of the applicants transfer over to JSHS to compete too. We collaborate with this competition the night before and do a poster presentation of both called the Sci-mix, in which Conference faculty, judges, students and guests can informally mingle and discuss projects.

▲ University Contacts Table

University	Faculty	Email/Notes (Faculty)	AMSTI Contact	Email/Notes (AMSTI)
ASU	Ashley Brock Dede Inge	abrock@alasu.edu dede.inge@wccs.edu	Tiffany Larcheveaux (Biology) (from Thrash)	tlarcheveaux@alasu.edu
Athens	Bryan Kennedy Susan Herring Jing Chen	Jing.Chen@athens.edu (Not available 23–24)	Kristi Heath (Biology) Contacted and discussed	kristi.heath@amsti.org
AU (Auburn Univ.)	Mary Lou Ewald Jessica Gilpin	ewaldml@auburn.edu jag0038@auburn.edu	—	—
JSU	Donna Perygin	dperygina@jsu.edu	Roseanne Green Krystal Milam (Biology) (from Thrash)	crgreen@jsu.edu kmilam@jsu.edu
Troy	—	—	Sonya McGlaughlin (Biology)	sdmclaughlin@troy.edu
UA (Univ. of Alabama)	Kevin Shaughnessy	—	Lisa Clark	lclark@ua.edu
UAB	Mickie Powell Emily Menard Jill Chambers Eric Lambert	mpowell@uab.edu jcham@uab.edu lambert2@uab.edu	Tina Hendrickson (Chemistry) Jill Chambers (Biology) Eric Lambert (Physics) (from Thrash)	jcham@uab.edu lambert2@uab.edu
UAH	Rob Griffin (Dean) Marie Heflin (COS) science.outreach@uah.edu	—	Charles Holloway (Chemistry) (from Thrash)	charles.holloway@uah.edu
Montevallo	Cynthia Tidwell Lillian D. Mathews Brett D. Noerager	tidwellc@montevallo.edu mathews1@montevallo.edu NoeragerB@montevallo.edu	Stephen Shivers	sshivers@montevallo.edu
UNA	Brenda Webb	—	Candace Golliver	cfgolliver@una.edu
USA	David Nelson	dnelson@southalabama.edu	Tracy Stallings (Biology) Lou Richards (Physics) (Judges)	tkstallings@southalabama.edu larichardson@southalabama

Other professional contacts

AU Material Science – Dr. Siyuan Dai; sdai@auburn.edu
Troy in Montgomery – Ronald Hunsinger; rnunsin@samford.edu ; Robert Vilardi; rvilardi@troy.edu
Alabama Academy of Science Jack Shelley-Tremblay jstremblay@southalabama.edu (251) 460-6371
Gorgas Scholarship Program Ellen Buckner ebbuckner@gmail.com ; 205-910-9877
AMSTI Amy Murphy amy.murphy@alsde.edu – pushed to sonya and 28aulkne thrash
Biology specialist for AMSTI state keshia.williams@alsde.edu
AMSTI Affiliate Coordinator. – Quincy Hamilton – qhamilton@ALSDE.edu
Sonya Scott physics and chemistry for AMSTI state sonya.scott@alsde.edu
Rebecca Thrash rebecca.thrash@alsde.edu 334-694-0015
Shane Haws middle school state AMSTI william.haws@alsde.edu
Matt Dean AP central matt@aplusala.org
Mobile County science supervisor slegrone@mcpss.com
Science coordinator for Mobile County Schools Melanie Tucker mtucker@mcpss.com

Accomplishments – Activities, Best Practices

In this section, you will report major activities which contributed to the FY25 objectives. FY25 Objectives for JSHS include:

- a) Increase regional participation numbers (students who submitted / applied)
- b) Expand the participation of underrepresented populations in STEM.
- c) Expose students to STEM opportunities in DoD laboratories. (Increase awareness of opportunities among JSHS participants at regional symposia levels).

1) What efforts were made to increase regional participation?

We do the sub-regional meetings in order to conveniently usher students in. It is a low-risk environment since the students record their presentations ahead of time. We also invite 8th graders to participate in the sub-regionals for experience. We clarify that they don't have to be done as well and the judges are directed to provide feedback and improvement during the 6 min defense part. We collaborate with the GORGAS scholarship program to recruit seniors into our program. We collaborate with ASEF state director to get emailing list. We also have engaged a homeschool group in the Huntsville area and have a class of students brainstorming ideas for research projects through participation in our online platform called Gizmo that we subscribe to. This summer we presented to STEM outreach groups to do training on STEM presentations, the JSHS judging rubric, questions during the defense and a tour of 3 labs in Auburn University's Department of Mechanical Engineering in Materials Science through Dr. Siyuan Dai. The following teachers and students participated on May 28th:

Name (Last, First)	2025-2026 Grade Level	School Email	Personal Email
Johnson, Phalanda	Teacher	phalanda.johnson@mps.k12.al.us	
Washington, Carson	Student (12)	21805@stu.mps-al.org	washingtoncarson12@gmail.com
Brown, Salinger	Student (11)	34014@stu.mps-al.org	salingerbrown98@gmail.com
Townsend, Lathan	Student (12)	37195@stu.mps-Al.org	EnergyRichochet385@gmail.com
Ryan Lee	Student (11)	53522@stu.mps-al.org	rmleeye3bt@gmail.com
Lee, Jongwoo	Student (11)	86440@stu.mps-al.org	jwleebest0823@gmail.com
Jatin Banna	Student (12)	23852@stu.mps-al.org	jatinbanna@hotmail.com
Taseen Akbar	Student (11)	19440@stu.mps-al.org	

Abraham Yang	Student (11)	5418(@stu.mps-al.org	ayang1025a@gmail.com
Aditya Pippala	Student (11)	55021@stu.mps-al.org	30aulkn.pippala@gmail.com
Bong, Yujin	Student (11)	26182@stu.mps-al.org	slamyjb1130@gmail.com

2) What, if any, challenges did your region face in its efforts to promote regional participation?
The date for Feb is early, so our sponsoring conference had to change their date and now we have that restriction for future planning and only a handful of college sponsors are willing to participate in a conference that early.

3) What most represents the trend this region experienced this year?

a) **Participation numbers increased over the last two years from 40+ to over 90 in 2324 and 66 in 2425.**

b) Participation numbers decreased

c) Participation numbers remained the same

4) Please list factors that contributed to this trend.

We try to use the webpage to ease people into contacting us. Using collaborations with STEM academia and other Alabama competitions, we have a more concerted and intentional emailing of information. Lots of short emails about timelines, extensions, helpful hints and low risk opportunities like presenting at locals even if you are not finished, and an initial sign up that was pretty much just name and email. At regionals, we recognize that some students are far behind their competitors. With this, we do a basic experimental design training during the morning competition that includes links to JSBS sponsored summer internships, or anything that supports experience in experimental design.

1) What efforts were made to promote DoD STEM opportunities and engagement? We schedule time during the morning session of our regional, in which I do a training on experimental design and I include the DoD STEM opportunities in the presentation. We discuss the summer opportunities and I show the JSBS webpage that has DoD STEM opportunities.

2) What, if any, challenges did your region face in its efforts to promote DoD STEM opportunities? We had an observer and a DoD presenter, but I failed to make contact with either. The observer accidentally was placed in a different scholarship competition, and so I just got an email later to figure that out. I think if we would have spoken on the phone, that that would not have happened.

Marketing & Advertising

1) What, if any, marketing and advertising were used to promote JSHS and the regional event?

Email lists from ASFA and AP central. Email list of state counselors in high school, two video products on our webpage, teacher training in the summer and a training session on experimental design and DoD STEM opportunities at the regional event.

2) Briefly describe efforts made to market/advertise this region's events. Include strategies used and areas covered.

We used our movie that was produced through AAS. We had a flier and an email list. We participated in an AU collaborative STEM education summer training for teachers called DISCO. The president of the Alabama Academy of Science and I also interviewed our finalist who received 2nd place at nationals and we will put that interview on the web page.

3) Did this region utilize social media?

a) Yes

b) **No**

The questions below only apply to those who selected YES for question 3

4) What social media platforms did you utilize? List the platform(s) and provide the corresponding handle in parenthesis. NA

5) How effective was social media for your region? NA

6) What, if any, challenges did your region face with marketing and advertising?

The fundamental challenge is to make contact with students and to get teachers comfortable with sponsoring students. Our biggest loss is a retiring veteran teacher. We have lost contact with local professional development schools and need to re-contact through our departments of education in our partnering colleges and universities

Science Fair Coordinator Report

Team Alabama Press Release – Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

Fourteen students from across Alabama attended the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held May 11-16 in Columbus, Ohio. More than 1,500 students from 64 countries, regions or territories competed for prizes in the event.

These students had earned the right to compete at this prestigious event by winning a top prize at their regional or at the state science fair. This year two teachers from the state received a scholarship to attend the fair so that they could learn all the possibilities that ISEF provides to the students. These teachers gained an overwhelming amount of knowledge and are prepared to share their findings with other educators across our state.

Students attending were: John Parsons, Madeline Borchert, Sophia Guo, Ashu Anand, Rhea Arya, Mira Menon, Nikita Prabhakar, Urvi Mysore, Tuan Tran, Harini Chakilam, Tianjun Xu, Justin Yoon, William Peng, and Daniel Pacheco.

Teachers on scholarship attending were: Dreama White and Jeanne Davis. Yuping Bao Ph.D. and Glen Borchert, Ph.D. also attended representing University of Alabama Birmingham and the University of South Alabama.

Virginia Vilardi Ph. D. from the Alabama Academy of Science served as Team Coordinator



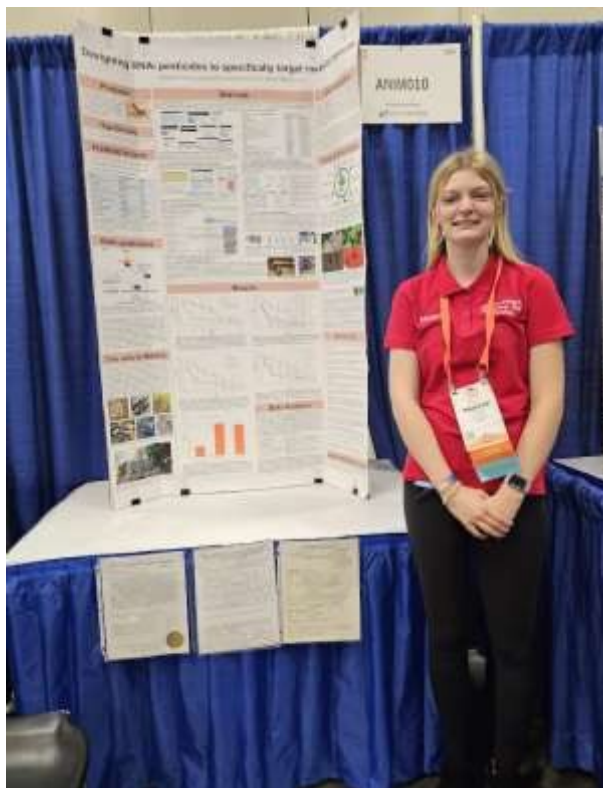


Team Alabama 2025

Awards won by the students included three Special Awards and three Grand Category Award—this was a great year with three returning competitors! The returning competitors helped to mentor all of the new students.



Special Awards:



Madeline Borchert

Long Island University

Long Island University, with two campuses in Brooklyn and Brookville, NY, is in the top 7% of universities with high research activity nationally recognized by the Carnegie Classification. Dassault Systems designated LIU as the world's first Center of Excellence in Life Sciences & Research with high societal impact in the fields of precision medicine, pharmaceutical sciences and health care in the digital age. LIU offers majors like Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Veterinary Technology, Biomedical Science, Health Care Administration, Nursing, and more. For more information, visit liu.edu.

Presidential Scholarship

*ANIM010 — Generating RNAi Pesticides to Specifically Target Invasive Species: A Case Study Examining Feasibility in the Red Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)*

Madeline Rose Borchert, The Alabama School of Math and Science, Mobile, AL, United States

of America **Westlake University**

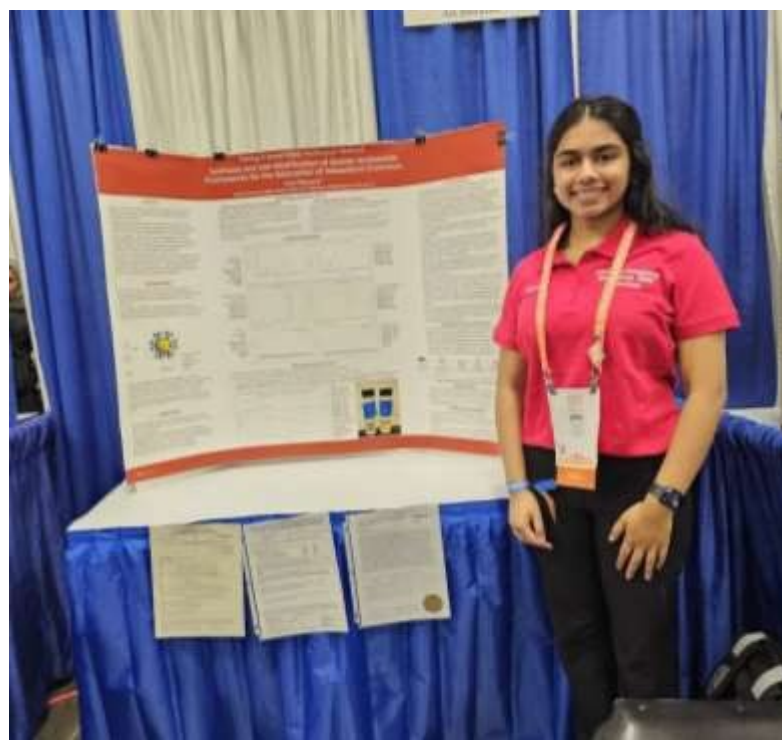
Established in 2018, Westlake University is a leading research university with a strong emphasis on fundamental scientific research and cutting-edge technological innovation in Hangzhou, China. Our university is making pioneering research breakthroughs and

advancing the frontiers of knowledge by inspiring the next generation of leaders in science and engineering from diverse cultures through world-class research, international collaboration, and academic programs taught in English.

Westlake University is awarding Pre-college Summer Program Scholarships, covering the program fee, lodging, food, insurance, round-trip international airfare, and excursions in Hangzhou & Shanghai this summer, to up to five finalists. Outstanding students will be given priority with full scholarships for four years of undergraduate admissions, applicable to any major, at Westlake University.

*ANIM010 — Generating RNAi Pesticides to Specifically Target Invasive Species: A Case Study Examining Feasibility in the Red Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)*

Madeline Rose Borchert, The Alabama School of Math and Science, Mobile, AL, United States of America



Urvi Mysore

YM American Academy

YM American Academy (YMAA) is a leading education consulting organization, dedicated to help US and Chinese students apply to US universities, graduate schools and high schools. We are focusing on the student's life growth through our comprehensive service and guidance. YM American Academy (YMAA) is pleased to award outstanding projects that display outstanding creativity, ingenuity in science and engineering, focusing on all

areas in chemistry sciences.

First Award of \$3,000

CHEM013 — *Testing a Novel Water Purification Method: Synthesis and Iron Modification of Zeolitic Imidazolate Frameworks for the Adsorption of Hexavalent Chromium*

Urvi Mysore, James Clemens High School, Madison, AL, United States of America
Winner will also receive a certificate

Grand Category Awards:

Third Award of \$1,200

ANIM010 — *Generating RNAi Pesticides to Specifically Target Invasive Species: A Case Study Examining Feasibility in the Red Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)*

Madeline Borchert, The Alabama School of Math and Science, AL, United States of America

Third Award of \$1,200

MATS012 — *Developing Emulsion Additives to Optimize Rheological Behavior in Non-Aqueous Magnetorheological Smart Fluids*

Ashu Anand, Alabama School of Fine Arts, AL, United States of America



Ashu Anand

Fourth Award of \$600

CELL030 — *Transcriptomics and Immunoinformatics Analyses Reveal Midkine as a Promising Therapeutic Target in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma*

Tuan Tran, Indian Springs School, AL, United States of America



Tuan Tran



Winners Tuan, Urvi and Madeline – Ashu was graduating

B-10

Alabama Science Olympiad Report

No Report

B-11

Counselor to AAAS Report

No Report

Section Officers

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	Chemistry Section Report	II
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	Environmental and Earth Sciences Report	VIII
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Chair: Michael Enayati, Troy University

Vice-Chair: Abolfazl Barati, Troy University

Date: September 22, 2025

Actions taken in 2025:

- Dr. Abolfazl Barati from Troy University became the new vice-chair of the section.
- The section chair and vice-chair met and discussed the current status of the section and strategies of recruiting poster/paper submissions for the 2026 AAS annual meeting.
- The section officers reached out to faculty members at Troy University, UAB, The University of Alabama, University of North Alabama, University of Alabama in Huntsville and Auburn University for possible poster/paper submissions.

Plans for 2025:

- The section chair and vice chair will continue to work on recruiting oral and poster presentations for the 2026 AAS annual meeting to bring more diverse students.

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Bioethics & History/Philosophy of Science Section Report

Annual Report

Alabama Academy of Science

Bioethics, History and Philosophy of Science

Chair, Dr. Dennis L. Sansom

September 23, 2025

As the new Chair of this section, I plan to recruit interest in submitting papers or presentations from the Philosophy Departments in the state (and selected others outside the state). I will encourage faculty and students to submit proposals in bioethics or the history and/or philosophy of science.

Executive Director Report
Ronald N. Hunsinger, MS, Ph.D.

Transition Report: Executive Director Role, Editorial Reorganization, and Financial Strategy
Collaboration, Editorial Board Restructuring, and Financial Overview

Introduction

As I assumed the position of Executive Director, I was privileged to work extensively with Associate Executive Director Jack Shelly-Tremblay. Our collaboration throughout the transition in roles was marked by open communication, strategic planning, and a shared commitment to the continued success and growth of the Academy. This report outlines the key aspects of our transition, the restructuring of the Editorial Staff, and an overview of the recently established financial arrangements, including details of our investment strategy.

Collaboration with Associate Executive Director Jack Shelly-Tremblay

During the transition period, Jack Shelly-Tremblay proved to be an invaluable partner and resource. We coordinated regularly to address both immediate operational needs and long-term strategic goals. Jack's institutional knowledge, leadership skills, and steady guidance made the transition seamless and effective.

Our joint efforts included:

- Reviewing organizational workflows and ensuring continuity of key functions as I moved into the Executive Director role.
- Assessing staff responsibilities and identifying areas where restructuring would improve efficiency and promote further Academy growth.
- Consulting on financial and administrative matters, including budgeting, resource allocation, and risk management.
- Developing communication strategies for staff and executive committee members to ensure transparency throughout the transition.
- Collaborating on the reorganization of the Editorial Staff (detailed below), with Jack's input helping to shape the new structure.

Jack's move to the role of Chair of the Editorial Board and Editor-at-Large was discussed and implemented with a focus on leveraging his strengths in oversight, mentorship, and editorial strategy. His willingness to support the organization wherever needed was critical to the success of this transition.

Editorial Staff Reorganization

Recognizing the evolving needs of the organization and the expanding scope of our publications, we undertook a comprehensive reorganization of the Editorial Staff. The goal was to further clarify roles, streamline editorial processes, and empower division editors to drive quality and innovation within their subject domains. Also, our goal was to achieve the JAAS continuity of having two complete 2024 editions and two complete 2025 editions. Reaching this goal would help us with the requirements to get the journal indexed. Finally, I am grateful to Jack Shelly-Tremblay and Jana Herrmann, Administrator – JagWorks@USA Institutional Repository · University of South Alabama for migrating the Journal over to the JagWorks, which is now its new home.

The new structure is as follows:

- Jack Shelly-Tremblay — Chair of the Editorial Board and Editor-at-Large

- Brian Toone — Division Editor for Computer and Information Science
- Jean-Pierre Ardit — Division Editor for Life and Social Sciences
- Sharvare Palwai — Division Editor for the Physical Sciences

Jack Shelly-Tremblay, in his capacity as Editor-at-Large, now oversees the editorial strategy and provides guidance to division editors, ensuring consistency and excellence across all publications. His role as Chair of the Editorial Board places him at the center of decision-making and policy-setting for editorial operations.

Brian Toone is responsible for Computer and Information Science. Brian brings expertise and vision to the division, helping to curate timely and relevant content, support peer review processes, and foster collaboration among authors and reviewers.

Jean-Pierre Ardit leads the Life and Social Sciences division, where his background and leadership are instrumental in expanding the division's reach and impact. Jean-Pierre's approach emphasizes interdisciplinary work and the integration of new research trends.

Sharvare Palwai guides the Physical Sciences division, bringing rigor and innovation to the editorial process. Sharvare's commitment to excellence is reflected in the division's strong publication record and ongoing initiatives to promote emerging scientific topics.

This reorganization is designed not only to clarify individual roles, but also to support mentorship, professional development, and the organization's continued commitment to scholarly excellence.

Financial Overview: Investment and Account Structure

One of the key responsibilities during the transition has been the management and optimization of the organization's financial assets. After careful discussions with our PNC branch managers, we have established a new money market account as part of the Federal Treasury Bill investment program. The following outlines the details and rationale behind this financial strategy.

Money Market Account: Details and Rationale as Explained to Us by PNC Bank

- The money market account participates in the bank's Federal Treasury Bill investment program.
- The agreed interest rate is 4.31%.
- We have chosen to invest \$50,000, fully FDIC insured for security and compliance.
- Funds remain in our account but are allocated to a reserve at the bank, within the treasury bill investment framework.
- Unlimited withdrawals are permitted, with a transaction fee of \$5 per withdrawal.
- A one-time set-up fee of \$250 applies for the establishment of the account.
- Estimated monthly yield ranges between \$167 and \$177, enabling recovery of the initial investment within just two months. Last year under the old Money Market account, we made a total of \$2.69. So, we are very happy to make the adjustment.
- Projected earnings over 3 years reach approximately \$6,000, and over 5 years as much as \$10,000.
- Checking account balance will remain over \$30,000 to cover immediate expenses.

This strategy was chosen for its blend of security, flexibility, and yield optimization. The FDIC insurance ensures that our funds are protected, while the treasury bill investment program aligns with our risk management goals.

Liquidity and Expense Management

Planning for liquidity is essential, especially as we forecast annual conference revenues and regular payments related to organizational events such as the Gorgas and the Science Fair. Fortunately, the timing of our revenues and expenses is such that it is unlikely we will need to withdraw from the money market account frequently; thus, we can allow the investment to grow steadily.

It is important to note that, while withdrawal is possible at any time, the \$5 transaction fee and the structure of the account mean that optimal timing for withdrawals should be carefully considered. Bettina, our treasurer, will receive all banking documents directly and will be consulted to determine the best strategy for withdrawals, should the need arise.

Conclusion

In summary, the transition to Executive Director has been conducted with thorough planning, consistent collaboration, and an unwavering focus on organizational advancement. Our restructuring of the Editorial Staff positions us for future growth and continuous improvement in publication quality. Meanwhile, our financial strategy secures the organization's assets, maximizes returns, and ensures operational flexibility.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their support, insights, and dedication during this period of change. Questions and feedback are always welcome as we strive to maintain transparency and excellence in all facets of our work.

I look forward to a productive year ahead, guided by strong leadership and sound financial stewardship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald (Ron) N. Hunsinger

At Large Officers Report (new in 2024)

No Report

Local Arrangements Committee Report

Local Arrangements Committee Updates

Local Arrangements Committee Updates

1. The rooms for the conference are reserved. Here are the basic places where the major events will be held:
 - a. Registration (both days): Lobby of the Business building (Harris Hall)
 - b. Morning Posters: Lobby of the Bible building (Harris Parker)
 - c. Paper Sessions: Rooms in the Bible Building
 - d. AAS and AJAS-Gorgas Photos: Lobby of the Bible Building
 - e. Box Lunches (both days): Rotunda auditorium (CHS will provide a speaker)
 - f. Annual Business Meeting: President's Dining Room or Board Meeting Room (if available)
 - g. Sci-Mix: Rotunda auditorium or lobby of Business building
 - h. Banquet: Rotunda auditorium
 - i. Speaker: Rotunda auditorium (Speaker: John Cranston)
 - j. Paper Reading Orientation: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - k. AJAS/Gorgas Judges Orientation: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - l. Paper Competition: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - m. Elections/Business Meeting: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - n. AJAS Competition finals: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - o. AJAS/Gorgas Judges Meeting: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - p. Awards Reception: Classrooms in Harris Parker
 - q. Demonstration for Gorgas judges & Individual interviews: Classrooms in Harris Parker or Harris Hall
 - r. Gorgas Judges Executive session: Classrooms in Harris Parker or Harris Hall
- Hotel with rooms blocked off for conference: Drury Inn Montgomery
- We will have LAC members and others assigned to meal orders
- We have LAC members person assigned to publicity
- We will have LAC members and student volunteers for registration/check-in.

Finance Committee Report

Report of the Finance Committee, Fall 2025

The AAS accounts have increased since last fall, continuing our several year trend of increasing revenue. The Gorgas account is only 15K less than our original invested principle from several years ago, despite averaging yearly withdrawals of about 14K, primarily due to good financial investments.

Ken Marion

Chair, finance Committee

Membership and Development Committee Report

No Report

Committee on Research Report

No Report

Long-Range Planning Committee

No Report

Auditing, Senior Academy Committee Report

No Report

C7 AJAS financial report by MT Jones 2425

The following was submitted to JSHS to end 2024 as the final budget report. We are awaiting reimbursement in the total amount.

A	B	C	D	E
	Admin Fee (Max)			\$6,000.00
Equipment	Equipment Rental			
	Equipment Purchase			
	Miscellaneous (explain)			
	Program Equipment			\$-
Regional Event	Student Travel			\$1,070.29
	Judge/Speaker Travel			\$124.06
	Chaperone Travel			
	Regional Event Food & Beverage			\$4,305.42
	Student Lodging			
	Chaperone Lodging			
	Judge/Speaker Lodging			\$198.10
	Facility Rental			
	Printing			
	Materials & Supplies			\$262.16
	Additional Regional Event Costs			
	Regional Event			\$262.16
	Travel	Regional Director Outreach Travel		
Program Travel			\$5,697.87	
Materials/Supplies	Promotional Materials			\$920.00
	Printing			\$125.55
	Materials & Supplies			\$540.39
	Advertising			
	Postage & Shipping Costs			\$36.50
	Website			\$309.00
	Conference Fees			
	Telephone /Internet			
Miscellaneous	Program Materials/Supplies			\$1,931.44
	Miscellaneous (explain)			
	Miscellaneous			\$-
				\$13,891.47

The following budgets were submitted for the 2026 and 2027 competitions: 16204 and 16304. The limit was removed, and I increased our estimate of food cost and student transportation.

C-8

Editorial Board & Associate Journal Editors Committee Report

No Report

C-9

Place and Date of Meeting Committee Report

No Report

C-10

Committee on Science, Public Policy, and Public Relations Report

The only significant event involving our committee was our drafting of an AAS statement on science and public policy in response to events at the federal level - Position Statement (March 2025): The Integral Role of Science in Advancing Alabama's Education, Public Health, Technological Innovation, National Security, and Economic Prosperity. This position statement can be found on the Alabama Academy of Science Website under "Links and Resources."

C-11

Archives Committee Report

C-11

Archives Committee Report

During 2025, all digital records associated with Executive Committee Reports and Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and Annual AAS Meetings through 2025 have been archived on an external hard drive. What has become most obvious in doing this is that the only policy governing record archiving and retention for the Academy is defined in the AAS Constitution & Bylaws [Article IV, Section 1(n)] which establishes a Committee on Archives.

"Committee on Archives: The President-elect shall appoint a chair of the Committee on Archives who shall be the Archivist. The Archivist shall keep in a safe place the Archives of

the Academy consisting of back numbers of the Journal, exchange publications, and records of the Academy.”

The Constitution & Bylaws do not define what constitutes the “records of the Academy” and the interpretation has been left to the Archivist as being physical, historical records retained in a secure archive facility – Auburn University Library. This reflects the time when the Bylaws were constructed and published in 1947. Much has changed in the intervening 78 years in terms of responsible records management with legal implications. Now digital retention and archiving are commonplace. Currently, the back issues of the Journal for the last few years are in PDF format only. To my knowledge we no longer participate in “exchange publications”. Most importantly, the Academy lacks a Records Retention Policy defining record retention content categories, a schedule for archiving, nature of digital storage, responsibilities of officers in record retention, retention periods for content categories, and best record retention practices consistent with being a 501(c)(3) organization.

I have attempted to provide an overview of what archiving and record retention generally now involves for a 501(c)(3) organization such as the Academy and have drafted a recommended ***AAS Record Retention and Archiving Policy***. The overview and drafted policy are attached for the Executive Committee’s review and action. If a policy is adopted, that policy should probably be referred to in Constitution & Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted

Larry K. Krannich

Alabama Academy of Science Record Archiving and Retention

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the **Alabama Academy of Science (AAS)** should follow both legal requirements and good nonprofit governance practices for record retention and archiving. The AAS Constitution & Bylaws in Article IV, Section 1(n) establishes a

“Committee on Archives: The President-elect shall appoint a chair of the Committee on Archives who shall be the Archivist. The Archivist shall keep in a safe place the Archives of the Academy consisting of back numbers of the Journal, exchange publications, and records of the Academy.”

The Constitution & Bylaws do not define “records of the Academy” and the interpretation has been left to the Archivist as being these records being relegated to historical and physical records. This reflects the time when the Bylaws were constructed and published in 1947. Much has changed in the intervening 78 years in terms of responsible records management with legal

implications. Furthermore, the Academy lacks a Records Retention Policy defining record retention content categories, a schedule for archiving, nature of digital storage, responsibilities of officers in record retention, retention periods for content categories, and best record retention practices consistent with being a 501c(3) organization.

What follows is a structured overview of what archiving and record retention generally involves for a 501c(3) organization such as the Academy followed by a recommended ***AAS Record Retention and Archiving Policy***.

Archiving generally encompasses the following:

3. **General Records Management**

- **Definition:** Archiving is the process of moving inactive or less frequently used records into long-term storage, while still keeping them accessible for compliance, history, or reference.
- **Best Practices** encompass:
 - Establishing a retention schedule (how long different record types must be kept).
 - Differentiating between active files (daily use) and archival records (permanent or rarely accessed).
 - Ensuring secure storage—either physical (fireproof cabinets, off-site facilities) or digital (cloud storage, dedicated archiving systems).
 - Maintaining an index/catalog so archived records can be retrieved easily.
 - Implementing disposition policies for when records should be destroyed.

4. **Digital Records**

- Use document management or archiving software (e.g., SharePoint, OneDrive with retention policies, Google Vault, or specialized systems).
- Convert physical records to digital records (scanning + metadata tagging).
- Encrypt sensitive records.
- Control access rights.

5. **Physical Records**

- Box and label records by retention category/date.
- Store in a climate-controlled, secure archive facility such as a university library.
- Keep a digital index for easier tracking.
- Rotate out or shred expired materials per policy.

4. Organizational / Legal Context

- Most non-profit organizations keep:
 - **Governance records** (bylaws, meeting minutes, policies).
 - **Financial records** (budgets, tax filings, audit reports).
 - **Membership records** (applications, rosters, communications).
 - **Historical archives** (publications, event materials, correspondence).
- Retention varies: e.g., tax records may need 7 years, governing documents are permanent.

Questions that need to be addressed by the Academy

The Academy needs to address the following issues regarding record archiving/retention for the Academy.

- What is the nature of the records the Academy should archive/retain?
- For what length of time should specific records be retained?
- How should digital archiving be handled?
- What are some policies/procedures that should be developed?
- Should the Academy codify a retention/archiving policy?
- What are some best practices to be followed?

6. What Records Should Be Archived

For nonprofits, records generally fall into four categories: **governance, financial, compliance, and programmatic/historical** with the indicated retention periods.

Permanent Records (never destroy):

- **Governing documents:** Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Amendments, IRS Determination Letter, 501c(3) approval.
- **Board of Trustee and Executive Committee records:** Minutes of board and committee meetings, annual meeting materials, signed board policies, major resolutions.
- **Legal documents:** Contracts, intellectual property filings, and legal correspondence.
- **Historical archives:** Newsletters, conference programs, publications, awards lists, historical photos.

Long-Term Records (retain 7–10 years):

- **Financial:** Audits, general ledgers, bank statements, budgets, payroll, Form 990s, grant records.
- **Tax filings:** Federal and state returns (at least 7 years).
- **Insurance policies:** Retain active + 10 years after expiration.
- **Employment files:** Keep for the period required by law (often 7 years after termination).

Short-Term (retain 3–5 years unless in dispute):

- **Routine correspondence,** drafts of documents, administrative notes.
- **Event planning documents** (unless of historical significance).

7. Digitally Stored Records

Best practices focus on **security, accessibility, and longevity**.

Digital Storage Options:

- **Cloud Storage** (OneDrive, Google Workspace, SharePoint, Dropbox for Nonprofits).
 - Pros: Accessible, version control, collaboration.
 - Cons: Requires strong access controls.
- **Dedicated Document Management Systems** (e.g., DocuWare, M-Files, Laserfiche).
 - Better for larger organizations with complex needs
 - Monthly charges/user and tend to be costly
- **Archival Repositories** (for historical materials):
 - Partner with a university archive (many state academies of science house archives at universities). AAS does this with the Auburn University Library.
 - Store digitized records in a repository with metadata for future research.

Best Practices:

- Use standard formats for long-term retention (PDF for documents, TIFF for images, CSV for data).
- Keep a centralized folder structure by category (Governance, Finance, Programs, Historical).
- Apply naming conventions (e.g., Board_Minutes_2025-03-10.pdf).
- Maintain two backups: one cloud, one offline (external drive or archival service).
- Assign access roles (Board, Treasurer, Archivist, Executive Director).
- Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) for account access.
- Periodically audit the archive (annual review).

8. Physical Records

Best practices focus on **security, accessibility, and longevity**.

Physical Storage Option:

- **University Library**
 - Store in a climate-controlled, secure archive facility. Currently storage is at Auburn University Library
 - Box and label records by retention category (Governance, Finance, Programs, Historical)/date.
 - Assign access roles (Board, Treasurer, Archivist, Executive Director).
 - Keep a digital index for easier tracking.
 - Focus should be on Permanent Records

4. Retention Policy and Procedures

Develop a Record Retention

& Destruction Policy (many nonprofits include this in their bylaws or governance policies).

- Adopt a retention schedule (permanent, 7 years, 3 years).
- Train officers and volunteers on proper storage, uploading, and retention.
- Document how paper records are digitized (scanning + indexing).
- Establish a destruction protocol for expired records (shredding, secure digital deletion).

5. Best Practices for Nonprofit Archives

- **Board/Executive Committee-approved policy:** IRS expects clear retention/destruction procedures.
- **Transparency:** Keep recent Form 990s and governing documents publicly accessible (e.g., on website).
- **Historical preservation:** A designated Archivist ensures scientific programs, conferences, and award history are preserved for future generations.
- **Digital archives:** Store digital archives in an organization-controlled account (not personal accounts of officers).

Here is a draft of a possible **Record Retention & Archiving Policy** template tailored for the Alabama Academy of Science (AAS) as a 501c(3).

Alabama Academy of Science

Record Retention and Archiving Policy

9. Purpose

The Alabama Academy of Science (AAS), a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, is committed to responsible record management that ensures compliance with federal and state laws, protects organizational history, and supports transparency. This policy establishes guidelines for the retention, storage, and destruction of records, both physical and digital.

10. Scope

This policy applies to all officers, board members, and volunteers of AAS who create, maintain, or manage organizational records.

11. General Principles

- Accessibility: Records must be stored in a manner that allows retrieval by authorized individuals.
- Security: Records containing confidential or sensitive information must be stored securely with restricted access.
- Preservation: Records of historical or legal significance must be retained permanently.
- Compliance: Records must be retained for the minimum period required by law and IRS guidelines.
- Accountability: The Board Secretary (or designated Archivist) will oversee implementation of this policy.

4. Record Retention Schedule

A. Permanent Records

- Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Amendments
- IRS Determination Letter and 501c(3) approval documents
- Board and committee meeting minutes, agendas, and resolutions
- Gorgas Scholarship Competition and Program

- Annual Reports and official publications of AAS (Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science)
- Audit reports (final)
- Legal documents (contracts, deeds, leases, intellectual property)
- Historical archives: newsletters, scientific conference programs, award lists, photographs, publications

12. Retain 7–10 Years

- Financial statements (audits, general ledgers, trial balances)
- Bank records (statements, reconciliations, canceled checks)
- Tax filings (IRS Form 990, state returns, payroll records)
- Grant applications, reports, and supporting documentation
- Insurance policies and claims (10 years after expiration)
- Personnel records (7 years after termination)

13. Retain 3–5 Years

- Routine correspondence and administrative notes
- Event planning documents not deemed historically significant
- Drafts of reports or policies (final versions retained permanently)
- Membership applications and rosters (retain final or summary versions permanently)

D. Destruction Protocol

- Paper records: cross-cut shredding or professional shredding service
- Digital records: secure deletion so files cannot be reconstructed
- Destruction should be documented and approved by the Secretary/Archivist

5. Digital Storage Guidelines

- Primary Storage: AAS-controlled cloud platform (Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 OneDrive, or SharePoint) with multi-factor authentication.
- Backup: Annual backup to an encrypted external hard drive stored off-site.
- File Formats: Use stable formats for long-term storage (PDF TIFF, CSV).
- Folder Structure: Organize by category (Governance, Finance, Programs, Historical).

- Naming Convention: Include record type and date (e.g., Board_Minutes_2025-03-10.pdf).
- Access Controls: Limit access to officers/committee chairs on a role-based basis.

6. Physical Storage Guidelines

- Primary Storage: Physical storage at Auburn University Library
- File Structure: Organize by category (Governance, Finance, Programs, Historical).
- Access Controls: Limit access to officers/committee chairs on a role-based basis.
 - Assign access roles (Board, Treasurer, Archivist, Executive Director).
- Digital index: Maintain for easier tracking.
- Record Focus: Focus on storage of Permanent Records

7. Responsibilities

- Secretary and/or Archivist: Oversees implementation of this policy and maintains the official record archive.
- Treasurer: Ensures financial and tax records are properly retained.
- Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Gorgas Scholarship Program, and Committees: Responsible for transferring final versions of committee records to the central archive.
- Volunteers: Must follow this policy for all records created on behalf of AAS.

7. Review and Updates

- This policy will be reviewed by the Board every three years or as required by changes in law or nonprofit governance best practices.

Attached is a one-page retention schedule chart (organized by record type and retention period) that officers and volunteers can use as a quick reference guide.

Alabama Academy of Science Record Retention Schedule (Quick Reference)

Category	Record Type	Retention Period
Governance	Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Amendments	Permanent
	IRS Determination Letter, 501 c(3) approval	Permanent
	Board & Committee Minutes, Agendas, Resolutions	Permanent
	Official Publications (AAS Journal)	Permanent
	Gorgas Scholarship Competition and Program	Permanent
Financial	Audits (final reports)	Permanent
	General Ledgers	7 years
	Budgets & Financial Statements	7 years
	Bank Records (statements, reconciliations, checks)	7 years
	IRS Form 990 & State Returns	7 years
Legal	Contracts, Intellectual Property	Permanent
	Insurance Policies	10 years after expiration
Personnel	Employee/Contractor Files	7 years after termination
Grants	Applications, Reports, Supporting Documentation	7 years after closeout
Program/Events	Scientific Conference Programs, Award Lists	Permanent
	Event Planning Materials (non-historical)	3–5 years
Membership	Rosters, Final Reports	Permanent (summary)
	Applications, Routine Lists	3–5 years
Correspondence	Routine Correspondence, Drafts, Administrative Notes	3 years
Historical	Newsletters, Publications (JAAS), Photographs, Major Records	Permanent

Wright Gardner Award, Fellow Award, & Dr. Adriel Johnson Mentoring Award Committee Report

At the 102nd annual meeting of AAS at Troy University, Montgomery, the following awards were presented and actions taken:

I. Wright Gardner's Award:

1. Dr. Ravikumar Majeti, University Of Alabama
2. Dr. Vinoy Thomas, University of Alabama, Birmingham

II. Fellows:

1. Dr. R. Malia Fincher, Samford University
2. Dr. Samiksha Raut, University of Alabama At Birmingham
3. Dr. David A. Johnson, Samford University, Samford University

III. Dr. Adriel Thomas Mentoring Award:

1. Dr. Vinoy Thomas, University of Alabama, Birmingham

The nomination for these awards should be submitted by the deadline through the official AAS website and see the Website for the description of each award type, as restated here.

Awards' Required Documentation

- i. Formal Nomination Letter
 - ii. Vitae and three letters of references from experts in the area of nominee's research area and professional involvement
 - iii. One page citation (statements of the nominee's professional activities) for the presentation of the award at the annual AAS Meeting.
- Anything missing from items (i, ii, iii) above may result in the rejection or deletion of the nomination. The awards will be presented during the Joint Annual Meeting of the Junior and Senior Alabama Academy of Science. The closing date is January 10th of each year for the nominations of the Gardner, Fellow, or Dr. Adriel Johnson Mentoring Awards.

		C-13
No Report	Carmichael Award Committee Report	
		C-14
No Report	Resolutions Committee Report	
		C-15
No Report	Nominating Committee Report	
		C-16
No Report	William H. Mason Scholarship Committee Report	
		C-17
	Gorgas Scholarship Committee Report	

Gorgas Scholarship Committee Report

C-17

Fall 2025

Chair: Ellen Buckner, Samford University ebbuckner@gmail.com; 205-910-9877 Co-Chair: Ron Hunsinger, Samford University, ret., AAS Executive Director; rnhusin@samford.edu Elizabeth Dobbins, (2025) Department of Biology, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229, egdobbin@samford.edu David H. Nelson, (2025) Department of Biology, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688, dnelson@southalabama.edu Prakash Sharma, Emeritus Professor, Department of Physics, Tuskegee University; pcsharma@hotmail.com Michael Hallman, Scientist, hallman.michael@gmail.com Lauren Rast Boban, (2025) Dept. of Physics, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294, (205) 975-0219 laurenr@uab.edu

Mitzi Adams (2025), NASA, 320 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL, 35805,
mitzi.adams@nasa.gov

The 2025 Competition was held in person at Troy University in Montgomery on February 28, 2025. Thank you to all those who served as judges for the Gorgas and Alabama Junior Academy of Science competitions. The lists of judges, press release for Gorgas Competition, and list of AJAS winners are attached.

The Treasurer, Bettina H. Riley, PhD, RN, FAAS, updated the Gorgas Scholarship disbursement through 9-10-25, and provided a spreadsheet to Drs. Buckner & Hunsinger. She noted that all scheduled payments have been made and there remains \$4,000 in balances to be paid in future semesters for two 2024 and 2025 awardees. Her report will detail reserve balances on the financial report and the \$4,000 will be included in the Gorgas reserve held in the AAS financial accounts.

The Finance Committee continues to meet semi-annually to review the Gorgas Investments and plan for future competitions, support annual expenses, scholarships, and growth for the future. Several issues have arisen concerning financial use of Gorgas funds (annual interest/revenues) while maintaining the corpus. In addition, issues of the structure of the AJAS and JSHS National Competitions are emerging, and these could affect the competitions in future years. The Gorgas Committee will be convened following the Fall Executive Committee with additions of Dr. Mark Jones, AJAS State Director, and others including Finance Committee Chair, to consider needs of the competitions. If indicated, a motion and electronic vote will be requested from the Executive Committee.

The Committee would like to thank the many outstanding teacher-sponsors of the students. Their work in encouraging students to enter the competition is instrumental to both the success of the program and to the success of the students.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Buckner PhD, RN, CNE, AE-C, FNAP, Gorgas Scholarship Chair & Chair of Judges



Gorgas Scholarship Competition

A Program of the Alabama Academy of Science

February 28, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today the Gorgas Scholarship Committee announced the rankings of the finalists of the 2025 Alabama Science Scholar Search. The final competition was held during the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science at Troy University Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama, held on February 27th and 28th 2025.

The winner of the first-place tuition grant of \$4000 was:

Bao, Will, Auburn High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Jacque Middleton

First alternate and winner of a tuition grant of \$3000 was:

Sagi, Srihansi, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Hungsin Chin

Second alternate and winner of a tuition grant of \$2000 was:

Anand, Ashu, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Hungsin Chin

Third alternate and winner of a tuition grant of \$1500 was:

Behara, Aanchal, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Hungsin Chin

Fourth alternate and winner of a tuition grant of \$1000 was:

Belew, John, Wetumpka Highschool, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

Unranked Finalists:

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 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 www.GorgasScholar.org. For further information, contact: Ellen Buckner, PhD, RN, CNE, Chairman, Gorgas Scholarship Competition, ellen.buckner@samford.edu OR ebbuckner@gmail.com , or by phone (205) 910-9877.

Abrams, James, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

Arya, Rhea, Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School, Teacher-Sponsor: David Boone

French, Jessica, Murphy High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Julie Prerost

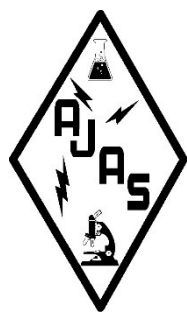
Patel, Esha, Alabama School of Math and Science, Teacher-Sponsor: Natalie Ortell

Saha, Sahishnu, James Clemens High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Kathryn Weir

Sharma, Prisha, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Teacher-Sponsor: Dreama White

Vilardi, Lillian, Wetumpka High School, Teacher-Sponsor: Virginia Vilardi

Wu, Edwin, Montgomery Academy, Teacher-Sponsor: Jay Rye



AJAS Winners 2025

Engineering, Math, and Computer Science:

1st place – Ashu Anand - "Developing Emulsion Additives to Optimize Rheological Behavior in Non-Aqueous Magnetorheological Smart Fluids" Alabama School of Fine Arts, *Birmingham*

2nd place - Michael Mazur - "Linear Kinematic Force Dissipation Mechanism for Controlled Collision Impact"

Environmental Science:

1st place – Prisha Sharma– "Impact of Environmental Cadmium Exposure on Efferocytosis in Alveolar Macrophages"

2nd place - Srihansi Sagi - "Laser Excited Fluorescence Spectroscopy for the Detection of Airborne Heavy Metals Cd, Mn, As Using Mid-IR Rare-Earth Solid State Lasers and Frequency Conversion"

Life Sciences:

1st place – Rania Masri and Denise Otali – “Investigating the Antibacterial Properties of Moringa Oleifera Against Escherichia Coli and Bacillus Cereus”

2nd place - Harsha Bheemanathini - "The Effects of Nutrient Types on Planarian Survival and Regeneration"

Physical Science, Earth and Space Science:

1st place – Monisha Bommu – “Using PeeMD to Model Atomic Interactions in an MoTe2 Bilayer”

2nd place - Greeshma Vinoy - "Process Optimization of Plasma Enabled Nanotechnology - Integrated Thermoregulative Textiles"

Medicine and Health, Behavioral and Social Sciences:

1st place – Aanchal Behara – “Overexpression of TFE3 in Susceptible Neuronal Populations: Implications for Lysosomal Biogenesis and Cellular Resistance in Neurodegenerative Diseases”

The five AJAS category winners went on to compete against one another for ranking for the upcoming National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium which will take place in Chantilly, Virginia, April 21-26.

Prisha Sharma placed **1st**, earning a **\$2000 scholarship**, and the opportunity to present her research in the oral session at the National NJHS with the potential to earn even more scholarship awards.

Aanchal Behara placed **2nd**, earning a **\$1500 scholarship** as well as the opportunity to present her research in the oral session at the National NJHS with the potential to earn even more scholarship awards.

Ashu Anand placed **3rd**, earning a **\$1000 scholarship**.

Monisha Bommu placed **4th**, earning a **\$500 scholarship**.

Rania Masri and Denise Otali placed **5th**, earning an all expenses paid trip to Nationals along with the 1st - 4th overall winners.

Mark T Jones, [PhD in science education](#) pub in [JSTE SciEd](#)
[Alabama Junior Academy of Science](#), Director
[Nationally certified teacher](#)

2025 on-site Gorgas & AJAS Judges & Readers



ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, INC.

March 18, 2025

On behalf of the Alabama Academy of Science (AAS), I want to express my appreciation to you for your serving as a judge for the high school competitions, the Alabama Junior Academy of Science & Gorgas Competition, during the Alabama Academy of Science Meeting, held February 28, 2025, at Troy University Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama.

Your support demonstrated the longtime partnership with the Academy, your dedication to continuing scientific development and education throughout Alabama, and your service to students and our citizens. Thank you!

The competitions on Friday were supported by more than 30 judges from 16 institutions around the state and another 20 participated as external readers in preliminary rounds. We believe everyone will remember this year's meeting with great accomplishment for themselves and for the AAS organization! The lists of winners of the competitions are included.

The Alabama Junior Academy of Science is a 9-12th outreach by the Alabama Academy of Science. AJAS consists of those Alabama High Schools that participate in the Alabama Regionals for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)(www.jshs.org) locally and at the state Alabama Academy of Science Joint Annual Meeting. These scholarship competitions are based on an original scientific paper done by the student. Disciplines include physical science, life science, environmental science, engineering & mathematics, and medicine & health. The top five winners represent the state at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). The JSHS is sponsored by the Department of Defense, and the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Gorgas Scholarship Competition for High School Seniors, founded in 1947 and named after Alabama native and U.S. Surgeon-General Dr. William Crawford Gorgas is supported by an endowment through the AAS. The Alabama Academy of Science, founded in 1924, promotes the development of interest in scientific matters, provides reliable scientific information including the publication of papers and abstracts, and the exchange of scientific information.

Thank you for your service as a reader or judge for the competitions of the Alabama Academy of Science. We hope to continue partnering to support recruitment of scientist members, engagement of students and teachers in the competitions, and creatively collaborating in innovative programs! Support for science in our state, our nation, and our world continues to be essential to all of society. Thank you for your support of science, mentoring, and achievement through the AAS.

Sincerely,

Ellen B. Buckner PhD, RN, CNE, AE-C, FNAP

Professor of Nursing, Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing, Samford University Gorgas
Scholarship Chair and Trustee, Alabama Academy of Science.

Dr. Afef Janen
Dr. Segun Oke
Elijah Adedeji
Angela Davis

Alabama A&M University
Alabama A&M University
Alabama A&M University
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Stephen Babalola	Alabama A&M University
YINSHU WU	Alabama A&M University
Angela Davis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Diann Jordan	Alabama State University

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: John Shelley-Tremblay, University of South Alabama
jstremblay@southalabama.edu (251) 460-6883 or (251) 581-4494

2025 on-site Gorgas & AJAS Judges & Readers

Dr. Ronald McMillon	Alabama State University
Dr. Muhammad Saleem	Alabama State University
Othreniel Forte	Alabama State University
Chioma Ezeuko	Alabama State University
Jack Carlisle	Auburn University
Melissa Garnes	Auburn University
Dr. James Bradley	Auburn University
Dr. Clark Lundell	Auburn University
Dr. Linda Gibson-Young	Auburn University
Dylan Higgs	Industry
Dr. Marcus Smith	Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS)
Dr. Mark Caulkins	Samford University
Dr. Ellen Buckner	Samford University
Dr. Wes Johnson	Samford University
Dr. Anthony Winchester	Samford University
Ron Hunsinger	Samford University
Wes Johnson	Samford University
Kwadwo Antwi-Fordjour	Samford University
Anthony Winchester	Samford University
Michael Kendrach	Samford University
Darryl Love	Southern Research Institute (Ret) and E3 Solutions
Kim Kerr	Troy University
Catherine Gayman	Troy University
Anika Auni	Troy University
Dr. Amanda Heitkamp	Troy University
Dr. Lashondra Moore	Tuskegee University
Dr. Akshaya Kumar	Tuskegee University
Dr. Archana Sharma	Tuskegee University
Dr. Sharvare (Shar) Palwai	Tuskegee University
Dr. Renjith Pillai	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Mickie Powell	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Michael B. Williams	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Mickie Lynn Powell	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Vinoy Thomas	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Stefanie Varghese	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Shruti Sanas	University of Alabama at Birmingham & Industry
Josh Rezek	University of Alabama at Birmingham Alumni
Dr. Jill Chambers	University of Alabama at Birmingham, Biology ALSDE
Qiang Hu	University of Alabama at Huntsville
Salomon Itza	University of Mobile
Dr. Sylvia Waweru	University of South Alabama
Jean-Pierre Arditi	University of South Alabama

Dr. Jack Shelley-Tremblay	University of South Alabama
Donna Cleveland	University of South Alabama
Jason Strickland	University of South Alabama
Kelly Major	University of South Alabama
David Nelson	University of South Alabama
Justin Sanders	University of South Alabama
Juan Mata	University of South Alabama
Kelly Major	University of South Alabama

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jstremblay@southalabama.edu (251) 460-6883 or (251) 581-4494

Electronic Media Committee Report

Director of Media Report by Dr. Diann Jordan:

I am currently working on a flyer for our meeting in February, 2026, which will be sent or given directly to the area high school science teachers since I know some of them personally. These high schools will include: Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, Carver High School, JAG High School, Lamp Magnet High School, Percy Julian High School, Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School, McIntyre Comprehensive Academy, Park Crossing High School and 3 private high schools (Montgomery Catholic, Montgomery Academy and St. James Academy. Local colleges and universities will include: AUM-Auburn at Montgomery, Troy University (Montgomery and Troy), Huntingdon College, Alabama State University, Tuskegee University, Auburn University (Auburn), Trenholm Community College, etc. I will do follow up calls to my contacts at these high schools and colleges and universities. Any additional information that the board would like for me to include will be added and approved at the EC meeting. A few of these high schools and colleges do attend our meetings but some are unaware of what the Alabama Academy of Sciences is doing. More updates at the EC meeting. Diann Jordan

D. Old Business

E. New Business

F. Adjournment