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**U.S. Department of Education**  
P120A050068 – Minority Science and Engineering  
Improvement Program

**THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.**



**University of Houston-Downtown**

**UH-Downtown**

The **UHD Scholars Academy (SA)** is an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

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*Spring Convocation*



*May 2, 2007*

## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2007

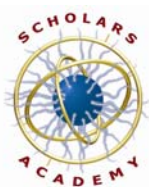


### Scholars Academy Staff

Administrative Secretary: Ms. Jackie Corvera  
 Director: Dr. Vicky Estrera  
 Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura  
 Program Manager: Mr. Rene Garcia  
 Student Assistants: Enedina Jasso, Carlos Lacayo, Jenny Martinez

### Co-Directors

Dr. Richard Aló      Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff      Dr. Dennis Rodriguez      Dr. Akif Uzman  
 Dr. Alberto Gomez-Rivas      Dean George Pincus      Dr. Larry Spears



## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2007

Seyed Abedi	Nydia Cordero	Nguyen Lam	Binh Nguyen	Danil Safin
Henia Abid	Fabiola Cortez	Vien Lam	Duy Nguyen	Anisa Saleh
Clyde Abraham	Emily DeLaGarza	Connie Larsson	Thao Nguyen	Laura Sanchez
Jennifer Abrams	Maria DeLeon	Julio LaTorre	Thu Nguyen	Stephen Seidel
Kethlyn Africa	Rosalinda Delgado	To-Kwok Lau	Tom (Si) Nguyen	Oluwadamilola Seriki
Betul Akin	Adam Drake	Phoebe Laurent	Vy Nguyen	Kulsoom Shah
Abdifatah Ali	Betsy Escobar	Eric LeDoux	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Christopher Sharpe
Mirella Alonzo	Elena Espino	Aaron Lewis	Shajeer Noorudeen	Elva Sierra
Karla Alvarez	London Flores-Swanon	Idalina Limon	Moriam Ojelade	Mark Smithers
Adolfo Aranzales	David Forero	Gabriela Lopez	Shamsideen Ojelade	Olga Soto
Shidrokh Ardestani	Jonathan Gamez	Shawn Luce	Cynthia Olvera	Christian Spampinato
Rosalinda Arenas	Kunjal Gandhi	Liem Luong	Michael Omoro	Nicolas Spampinato
Norma Ascencio	Dennis Garcia	Elizabeth Magreola	Justine Onyedebelu	Marvin Stephen
Christopher Ash, Jr.	Cynthia Garza	Jerry Maliti	Daniel Osakue	Ibiene Tamuno
Sujan Bajracharya	Mario Garza	Donica Manak	Moses Osoro	Tarfa Tarar
Elise Balhoff	Ruby Garza	Steven Manak	Kristopher Overholt	Brian Terry
Araly Barrera	Edgar Gatica	Amber Martinez	Blythe Parham	Juan Tito
Floribel Beiza	Micaela Gilbert	Carol Martinez	Alarna Paterson	Antonio Tito, Jr.
Adrian Berry	Lisa Gonzales	Jenny Martinez	Nicolle Patterson	Khady Toure
Brendon Bingwa	Audrey Gonzalez	Victor Martinez	Mesias Pedroza	Nghia Tran
Reyna Bonilla	Lauren Gracia	Troy Mason	Silvia Pejerrey	Phong Tran
Christopher Bowes	Celina Guillen	Sanu Mathew	Kristi Pennington	Jose Trinidad
Richard Bryant	Robyn Hanna	Merlin Mathews	Hugo Peralta	Charles Varghese
Jacques Burhama	Ginger Haug	Gloria Matta-Aldana	Krista Perdue	Justin Varghese
Wendy Callejas	William Holtkamp	Robin May	Trisha Pfluger	Mario Vasquez
Ambar Cancino	Zahid Hossain	Robert McCardell	Le Phan	Avani Verma
Michael Carolan	Jeffrey Hume	Paula Medrano	German Ramirez	Evelin Villa
Flor Castro	Victoria Ike	Cindy Menendez	Ernesto Ramirez, Jr.	An Vo
Juan Cavazos	Joseph Irving	Mohamedwesam Mohamed	Patricia Ramon	Amanda Walker
Debora Cervantes	Claudia Jimenez-Lopez	Rim Mohamed	Johnny Ramos	Marium Waqar
Teofilo Chacon	Nirmal John	Pantea Mohammadi	Juan Razo	Courtney Watts
Michelle Chatman	Anthony Johnson	Timothy Morales	Roberto Reyes	Lisa Weigle
Tiffanie Chatman	Swati Kale	Claudia Moreno	Rachel Richison	Jonathan Whittenton
David Cherian	Jonathon Keele	Victoria Morillon	Nida Rizvi	Gabriel Williams
Grantley Christie	Ufaf Khan	David Nanyes	Brian Rodriguez	Hiba Zwiya
Angel Coombs	Po-Hsien Kuo	Wilmer Naranjo	Reuben Rodriguez	
Alicia Corazon	Carlos Lacayo, Jr.	Jiawen Ng	Juan Romero	

## 2007 Honor Corps

### First Year

Betul Akin  
Adolfo Aranzales  
Elise Balhoff  
Araly Barrera  
Brendon Bingwa  
Jacques Burhama  
Michelle Chatman  
Grantley Christie  
Dennis Garcia  
Lauren Gracia  
Zahid Hossien  
Swati Kale  
Jonathon Keele  
Po-Hsien Kuo  
Connie Larsson  
To Kwok Lau

Shawn Luce  
Liem Luong  
Robin May  
Jiawen Ng  
Binh Nguyen  
Duy Nguyen  
Shajeer Noorudeen  
Shamsideen Ojelade  
Michael Omoro  
Kristopher Overholt  
Blythe Parham  
Nicolle Patterson  
Kristi Pennington  
Juan Razo  
Rachel Richison  
Oluwadamilola Seriki  
Nicolas Spampinato

Antonio Tito  
Nghia Tran  
Phong Tran  
Avani Verma  
Amanda Walker  
Gabriel Williams

### Second Year

Henia Abid  
Jennifer Abrams  
Shidrokh Ardestani  
Teofilo Chacon  
Nydia Cordero  
Emily DeLaGarza  
Jose Gamez  
Mario Garza  
Ginger Haug  
William Holtkamp

Nguyen Lam  
Sanu Mathew  
Gloria Matta-Aldana  
Wilmer Naranjo  
Shafeeq Noorudeen  
Trisha Pfluger  
Marvin Stephen  
Juan Tito  
Hiba Zwiya

### Third Year

Karla Alvarez  
David Cherian  
Celina Guillen  
Vien Lam  
Moriam Ojelade  
Moses Osoro  
Brian Terry

## Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

Vien Lam      Kristopher Overholt      Christopher Sharpe

## Spring 2007 Graduating Seniors

Henia Abid  
Jennifer Abrams  
Betul Akin  
Mirella Alonzo  
Karla Alvarez  
Shidrokh Ardestani  
Elise Balhoff  
Christopher Bowes  
Michael Carolan

Teofilo Chacon  
Tiffanie Chatman  
David Cherian  
Nydia Cordero  
Adam Drake  
Ruby Garza  
Celina Guillen  
William Holtkamp  
Swati Kale

Vien Lam  
Donica Manak  
Steven Manak  
Gloria Matta-Aldana  
Rim Mohamed  
Duy Nguyen  
Moses Osoro  
Mesias Pedroza  
Trisha Pfluger

Roberto Reyes  
Brian Rodriguez  
Olga Soto  
Marvin Stephen  
Khady Toure  
Mario Vasquez  
Avani Verma  
Amanda Walker  
Hiba Zwiya

## Awards Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

### Special Recognition:

#### Scholarship Achievements

##### Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Nguyen Lam      Vien Lam      Shafeeq Noorudeen

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2006-2007

Henia Abid	Teofilo Chacon	Vien Lam	Juan Razo
Jana Carter	Nydia Cordero	Wilmer Naranjo	Hiba Zwiya
David Cherian	Mario Garza	Moses Osoro	

##### Red Rose Scholars for 2007-2008

Adolfo Aranzales	Nguyen Lam	Kristi Pennington	Nicolas Spampinato
Emily DeLaGarza	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Juan Razo	Antonio Tito
Lauren Gracia			

### Research Achievements

#### Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2006 to Spring 2007)

Henia Abid	Shermel Edward-Maddox	Gloria Matta-Aldana	Kristi Pennington
Jennifer Abrams	Fernando Fernandez	Robin May	Hugo Peralta
Mirella Alonzo	Dennis Garcia	Paula Medrano	Trisha Pfluger
Karla Alvarez	Cynthia Garza	Vincent Melgarejo	Ernesto Ramirez
Adolfo Aranzales	Mario Garza	Claudia Mendez	Patricia Ramon
Shidrokh Ardestani	Robyn Hanna	Rim Mohamed	Monica Rios
Norma Ascencio	Joel Henderson	Claudia Moreno	Brian Rodriguez
Elise Balhoff	William Holtkamp	Aaron Murray	Juan Romero
Floribel Beiza	Okezie Igboeli	David Nanyes	Janeth Sanchez
Christopher Bowes	Claudia Jimenez-Lopez	Binh Nguyen	Oluwadamilola Seriki
Richard Bryant	Jonathon Keele	Quynh Nguyen	Danyal Shaikh
Michael Carolan	Nguyen Lam	Thu Nguyen	Mark Smithers
Jana Carter	Vien Lam	Tom (Si) Nguyen	Nicolas Spampinato
Michelle Chatman	Connie Larsson	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Brian Terry
Tiffanie Chatman	To-Kwok Lau	Shafeer Noorudeen	Antonio Tito
Daisy Cherian	Shawn Luce	Moriam Ojelade	Nghia Tran
David Cherian	Liem Luong	Shamsideen Ojelade	Avani Verma
Grantley Christie	Elizabeth Magreola	Chukwuma Okeke	An Vo
Leslie Cook	Steven Manak	Moses Osoro	Amanda Walker
Nydia Cordero	Shuaib Mansoori	Kristopher Overholt	Lisa Weigle
Emily DeLaGarza	Troy Mason	Nicolle Patterson	Gabriel Williams
Anita Delgadillo	Karim Masri	Mesias Pedroza	Josh Wolfe
Adam Drake	Merlin Mathews		



Above are SA Graduates at the Fall 2006 Commencement: Fabian Ramirez; Laura Castellanos; Chau Hoang; Craig Foster; Fernando Fernandez; Xena Bannis; Eloy Ortega; Aaron Murray; Eimy Flores; Claudia Mendez; and Mohamed Diarra.

**Student Attendance and Presentations at Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings**

*Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Anaheim, CA*  
Mirella Alonso Nydia Cordero Anita Delgadillo Swati Kale Khoa Phan Hung Tran

*62nd Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SWRM), Houston, TX*  
David Code\* Shajeer Noorudeen\*

*2nd Annual Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Huntsville, TX*  
Whitney Bass Adam Drake\* Juan Leon\* Rim Mohamed\* Quynh Nguyen

*Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Tampa, FL*  
Karla Alvarez Nguyen Lam\* Mesias Pedroza\* Justin Varghese\*  
Cynthia Garza\* Binh Nguyen\* Patricia Ramon

*National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Detroit, MI*  
Jana Carter\* Paula Medrano\*

*Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Anaheim, CA*  
Mesias Pedroza\* Antonio Tito\*

*Houston LSAMP 2006 National Conference, Houston, TX*  
Karla Alvarez\* Mario Garza\* Jonathon Keele\* Shafeeq Noorudeen\*

*Fall Meeting - Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, Galveston, TX*  
Shidrokh Ardestani\* Ginger Haug

*5th International Conference on DE and DS, Edinburg, TX*  
Adam Drake\*

*21st National Conference on Undergraduate Research, San Rafael, CA*  
Henia Abid\* Shafeeq Noorudeen\*

*110th Texas Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Waco, TX*  
Floribel Beiza\* Michael Carolan\* Cynthia Garza\* Robin May\* Shajeer Noorudeen\*  
Ambar Cancino\* Dennis Garcia\* Shermel Maddox\* Binh Nguyen\* Nicolle Patterson\*

*Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology*  
Henia Abid\* Celina Guillen Merlin Mathews Juan Razo  
Karla Alvarez Claudia Jimenez-Lopez Chukwuma Okeke Justin Varghese\*  
David Cherian\* Benedict Khoo Mesias Pedroza\*

*2007 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Annual Fire Conference, Gaithersburg, MD*  
Kristopher Overholt\*

*The More Graduate Education at Mountain States Alliance (MGE@MSA)/Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Student Research Conference, Tempe, AZ*  
Merlin Mathews\* Kristopher Overholt\*

*7th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair*  
18 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

*6th Annual UHD Student Research Conference*  
62 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

\* Indicates this student presented a scientific research poster or oral presentation at this conference

★ Indicates an award was presented to this student for their scientific research presentation

**Brown Foundation Poster Presentation Awards**

Henia Abid Michael Carolan Binh Nguyen Mesias Pedroza  
Shidrokh Ardestani Mario Garza

**Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders**

Ali Abedi Nguyen Lam Shafeeq Noorudeen Natalie Sirisaengtaksin  
Karla Alvarez Liem Luong Shajeer Noorudeen Alvin Sulik  
Araly Barrera Robin May Hugo Peralta Hung Tran  
Micaela Gilbert Rim Mohamed Patricia Ramon Nghia Tran  
Po-Hsien Kuo Quynh Nguyen Kulsoom Shah

**Computer & Mathematical Sciences Tutors**

Emily DeLaGarza Chau Hoang Liem Luong Mark Smithers  
Thomas Foster William Holtkamp Troy Mason Alvin Sulik  
Edgar Gatica Jonathon Keele Aaron Murray Nghia Tran  
Lauren Gracia Phan Le Tai Phan

**Engineering Technology Tutors**

Adolfo Aranzales Grantley Christie

**Natural Science Tutors**

Betul Akin Nguyen Lam Robin May Kristi Pennington  
Prince Buzombo Vien Lam Shamsideen Ojelade Nicolas Spampinato  
Emily DeLaGarza Shawn Luce

**Peer Mentors** Senior PM: Moses Osoro

Karla Alvarez Emily DeLaGarza Vien Lam Juan Razo  
Adolfo Aranzales Jose Gamez Connie Larsson Rachel Richison  
Prince Buzombo (Fall 06) Lauren Gracia Moses Osoro Olga Soto (Fall 06)  
Daisy Cherian (Fall 06) Celina Guillen Mesias Pedroza Hiba Zwiya  
Grantley Christie William Holtkamp Kristi Pennington

**Faculty Mentors**

Dr. Jon Aoki Dr. Poonam Gulati Dr. Phil Lyons Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo  
Dr. Ping Chen Dr. Brad Hoge Dr. Deanna McCullough Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon  
Dr. Byron Christmas Dr. Kenneth Johnson Dr. Lisa Morano Dr. Shengli Yuan  
Dr. Weining Feng Dr. Hong Lin Dr. Edwin Tecarso