

The Scholars Academy is Supported by:

THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.

The Brown Foundation, Inc.

The Hamill Foundation



The Welch Foundation

BJ-0027 – Departmental Grant



National Science Foundation

1407736 – EHR Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation

0965952 – DUE Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

0934913 – DUE Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program



State of Texas Legislature

K-2-01024 – Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)



Texas Workforce Commission

28155SMP000 – Summer Merit Program



U.S. Department of Education

P120A130040 – Minority Science Improvement Program



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NRC-27-10-1121 – Minority Serving Institutions Program

NRC-HQ-12-G-38-0006 – Scholarship and Fellowship Education Grant

NRC-HQ-84-G-14-0028 – Community College Grant



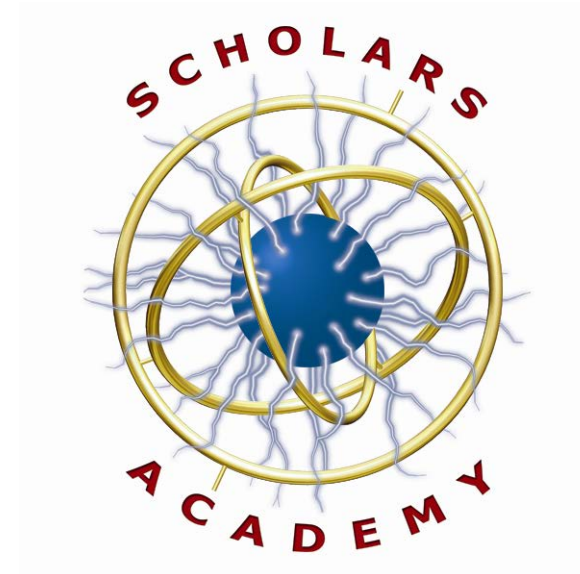
University of Houston-Downtown

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.

One Main Street, 725-North; Houston TX 77002-1001

Phone: 713-222-5344; Fax: 713-223-7410; scholars@uhd.edu; www.uhd.edu/scholars

Spring Convocation



May 15, 2015

Scholars Academy Program Staff

Scholars Academy Staff

Director: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
 Program Manager: Mr. René Garcia
 Administrative Assistant II: Mr. Vernon Gonzales
 Student Assistants: David Duran Allyssa Smith Annie Vu

Ad Hoc Executive Committee

Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff Dr. Akif Uzman Dr. Shishen Xie
 Dr. Lisa Morano

Peer Mentor Team

Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura
 Senior Peer Mentor: DaNae Woodard

Shamsa Ali	Selene Delgado	Geraldine Lerner	Mau Truong
Caroline Barbosa	Carla Gonzales	Eloy Perez	Alice Turchaninova
Israel Cervantes	Joseph Johnson (F14)	Wendy Ramirez	Evelyn Valdez
Shebna Cheema	Danial Khan	Vicente Rodriguez	Westley Wrightson
Ryan Cherian	Christa Landowski (F14)		

Faculty Mentor Team

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Robin Jose	Dr. Plamen Simeonov
Dr. Amy Baird	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Hong Lin	Dr. Michael Tobin
Dr. Maria Benavides	Dr. Katarina Jegdic	Dr. Rachna Sadana	Dr. Eszter Trufan
Dr. Gabriella Bowden	Dr. Mian Jiang	Dr. Dvijesh Shastri	Dr. Vassilios Tzouanas

Ambassadors

Akhirah Avant	Kenah Garcia	Esmeralda Martinez	Linda Onyirimba	Saima Valliani
Rajni Dhadral	Kimberlyn Garcia (F14)	Leah Mulkey (F14)	Linda Rubio	Sara Valliani
Julio Enriquez	Amairani Hernandez	Kenny Nguyen	Alice Solomon	Richard Wrangpetch
Milo Falconi	Enes Inam	Ngoc Nguyen	Evelyn Valdez	Ana Zertuche
Valerie Figueroa				

Fall 2014 Scholars Academy Freshman



Scholars Academy Members Spring 2015

Daniyah Ahmed	Rafael de la Flor	Gabriella Hines	Salam Nabulsi	Harit Shah
Viktor Akhanov	Selene Delgado	Masako Hino	Dennis Ngo	Momena Shah
Shamsa Ali	Deepika Dhadral	Duy Hoang	Kenny Nguyen	Sushil Shah
David Alquicira	Rajni Dhadral	Ashlyn Holbert	Ngoc Nguyen	Iris Silva
Doris Amaro	Ojaswee Dhungana	Ryan Horton	Jenebu Okwori	Alice Solomon
Praise Anene	Ngan Do	Ilijana Hyseni	Jacqueline Olvera	Sishir Subedi
Kiara Arroyo	Julio Enriquez	Mehmet Inam	Linda Onyirimba	Douglas Syzdek
Akhirah Avant	Mohamed Ezz Eldin	Quintin Jackson	Pedro Padron III	Patrick Taveechai
Precious Awagu	Milo Falconi	Robert Jackson	Juangerardo Parra	Princy Thomas
Asma Aziz	Valerie Figueroa	Rosemary John	Scott Patterson	Karina Torres
Caroline Barbosa	Melody Flores	Andreea Jula	William Paz	Destiny Trevino
Juan Barrera	Katherine Freeman	Namrata Kayastha	Eloy Perez	Yazmin Trujillo
Mahesh Basyal	Judith Gallardo	Danial Khan	Benjamin Pilgrim	Mau Truong
Haneen Bayati	Anthony Galvan	Najah Khan	Lucero Priego	Alisa Turchaninova
Allaye Bocoum	Gerardo Garcia	Anish Khatiwada	Charles Punnathara	Evelyn Valdez
Kristen Brown	Kenah Garcia	Linus Klingler	Wendy Ramirez	Joan Valladares
Thong Bui	Jonathan Garza	Ngoc Lai	Reema Rawal	Saima Valliani
Huy Bui	Jesse Gilmore	Christa Landowski	Joesheena Rempis	Sara Valliani
Nuru Bure	Irin Girgis	Guadalupe Lee	William Reyes	Denisse Velazquez
David Cardenas	Ivan Gomez	Fersen Leiva	Yarmilla Reyes	Glaubyane Viana
Janeffer Casarez	Luis Gomez	Geraldine Lerner	Alesha Rimmelin	German Villalobos
Kevin Castillo	Carla Gonzales	Liang Lin	Raul Rios, Jr.	Leticia Villalobos
Emilia Caylor	Isaias Gonzalez	Crystal Llanas	Elsy Rivera	Sheeda Vo
Israel Cervantes	Jose Martin	Tayler Locklear	Jacqueline Rocha	Graham Wilson
Wymond Chan	Gonzalez	Nguyen Luu	Fernando Rodarte	DaNae Woodard
Shebna Cheema	Jose Miguel	Zakariya Mahmod	Vicente Rodriguez	Bria Wooten
Ryan Cherian	Gonzalez	Jonathan Martin	Irvin Romero	Richard Wrangpetch
Jim Chisholm	Sandy Gramajo	Esmeralda Martinez	Damon Ross	Westley Wrightson
Francisco Colon	Ana Guerrero	Lisa Martinez	Linda Rubio	Ana Zertuche
Isabel Cornejo	Sameer Habib	Dorcas Mbaeri	Elizabeth Salas	Henry Zhang
Mariana Cortes	Amairani	James McHenry	Sekou Samake	Yuntian Zhang
Prisilia Cruz	Hernandez	Viridiana Monroy	Rudy Santos	
Shanna Daniel	Jennifer Herrera	Carlos Montes	Vivita Sedai	

Awards Program

2015 Honor Corps Inductions

First Year

Doris Amaro	Ngoc Lai	Richard Wrangpetch
Asma Aziz	Guadalupe Lee	Ana Zertuche
Mahesh Basyal	Liang Lin	Yuntian Zhang
Allaye Bocoum	Crystal Llanas	
Huy Bui	Salam Nabulsi	Second Year
Kevin Castillo	Jennifer Nguyen	Viktor Akhanov
Emilia Caylor	Benjamin Pilgrim	Shamsa Ali
Israel Cervantes	William Reyes	Praise Anene
Ngan Do	Alesha Rimmelin	Kiara Andrade
Milo Falconi	Jacqueline Rocha	Kristen Brown
David Flores	Fernando Rodarte	Kevin Castillo
Jonathan Garza	Vicente Rodriguez	Shebna Cheema
Jesse Gilmore	Linda Rubio	Ryan Cherian
Irin Girgis	Sekou Samake	Jim Chisholm
Duy Hoang	Vivita Sedai	Mariana Cortez
Ashlyn Holbert	Alice Solomon	Shanna Daniel
Ilijana Hyseni	Sishir Subedi	Selene Delgado
Mehmet Inam	Princy Thomas	Katherine Freeman
Robert Jackson	Yazmin Trujillo	Amairani Hernandez
Namrata Kayastha	Saima Valliani	Daniel Khan
Linus Klingler	Sara Valliani	Christa Landowski
	Sheeda Vo	Nguyen Luu

Third Year

Esmeralda Martinez
James McHenry
Jenebu Okwori
Reema Rawal
Elsy Rivera
Harit Shah
Evelyn Valdez
Joan Valladares
German Villalobos
Francisco Colon
David Flores
Sandy Gramajo
Najah Khan
Anish Khatiwada
Fersen Leiva
Geraldine Lerner
Eloy Perez
Mau Truong
Alisa Turchaninova
DaNae Woodard

Community Service Awards

Individual Awards	To be announced
Service Learning Project Awards	To be announced
PM Group Project Awards	To be announced

Ambassador Leadership and Mentoring Awards

To be announced

Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

To be announced

Dr. Barry Garrett Endowed Scholarship Award

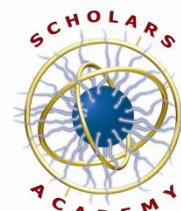
To be announced

Dr. Larry Spears Outstanding Research Student Award

To be announced

Awarding of SA Graduation Stoles to the Spring 2015 Graduating Seniors

Praise Anene	Ojaswee Dhungana	Geraldine Lerner	Elsy Rivera
Caroline Barbosa	Irin Girgis	Jenebu Okwori	Vivita Sedai
Juan Barrera	Amairani Hernandez	Linda Onyirimba	Mau Truong
Haneen Bayati	Namrata Kayastha	Wendy Ramirez	Joan Valladares
Francisco Colon	Najah Khan	Reema Rawal	DaNae Woodard
Mariana Cortez	Ngoc Lai	Alesha Rimmelin	Ana Zertuche
Selene Delgado	Christa Landowski		



Welcome Remarks

Dr. Mary Jo Parker, Scholars Academy Director

Opening Remarks and UHD 40th Anniversary Video

Dr. William Flores, UHD President

Featured Scholars Academy Faculty Mentor

Dr. Maria Benavides, Associate Professor in Chemistry, Dept. of Natural Sciences

Special Recognition:

Scholars Academy Program Staff

Scholarship Achievements

Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) Scholars

Shamsa Ali	Danial Khan	Benjamin Pilgrim	Momin Usmani
Doris Amaro	Najah Khan	Karina Torres	Denisse Velazquez

Dr. Barry Garrett Endowed Scholarship Award for 2014-2015

DaNae Woodard

Dr. Larry Spears Outstanding Research Student Award for 2014-2015

Christa Landowski

START Workshop Leaders

Akhirah Avant	Shanna Daniel	Eloy Perez	Alice Solomon	Alice Turchaninova
---------------	---------------	------------	---------------	--------------------

University Seminar Peer Leaders

Akhirah Avant	Selene Delgado	Linda Rubio	Alice Solomon	Princy Thomas
Kevin Castillo	Jonathan Garza			

Peer-Led Team Learning Peer Leaders

Mahesh Baysal	Julio Enriquez	Amairani Hernandez	Fernando Rodarte	Alice Solomon
Kevin Castillo	Kenah Garcia	Quintin Jackson	Irvin Romero	Destiny Trevino
Israel Cervantes	Jose Gonzales	Joeshheena Rempis	Rudy Santos	German Villalobos
Ngan Do				

Computer & Mathematical Sciences Peer Tutors

Huy Bui	Amairani Hernandez	Karen Orta	Harit Shah	German Villalobos
Kevin Castillo	Joseph Johnson	Eloy Perez	Alice Turchaninova	Ming-Hao Yang
Israel Cervantes	Steve Leon			

Engineering Technology Peer Tutors

Wymond Chan

Natural Science Peer Tutors

Viktor Akhanov	Shebna Cheema	Enes Inam	William Paz	Vivita Sedai
Doris Amaro	Jim Chisholm	Jenebu Okwori	Benjamin Pilgrim	Roman Torres
Rogelio Camacho	Mariana Cortez	Linda Onyirimba	Reema Rawal	Mau Truong

“Pay It Forward” Volunteer Challenge

Service Learning Group Project Presentations by Peer Mentors

Recognition of Student Attendance and Presentations at Regional and National Student Research Conferences & Professional Meetings

2014 Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, New Orleans, LA

Charles Punnathara* Vivita Sedai*

2014 South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) Radiation Regulatory Conference, Austin, TX

Jim Chisholm Charles Punnathara

2014 Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference, Phoenix, AZ

Deepika Dhadral Ojaswee Dhungana Namrata Kayastha Stephanie Reyes

2014 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference, Los Angeles, CA

Shamsa Ali*	Kimberlyn Garcia*	Lisa Martinez*	Saima Valliani*
Mahesh Basyal*	Sameer Habib*	Jenebu Okwori*	Sara Valliani*
Shebna Cheema*	Joseph Johnson	Eloy Perez	German Villalobos
Francisco Colon*	Christa Landowski*	Charles Punnathara*	Sheeda Vo*
Mariana Cortes*	Steve Leon	Reyna Valdez*	

2014 Baylor University 8th Annual Advanced Instrumentation Workshop, Waco, TX

Martha Guerra DaNae Woodard

2014 Rice University Undergraduate Chemistry Research Symposium, Houston, TX

Francisco Colon*

2014 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), San Antonio, TX

Irin Girgis* Geraldine Lerner*

2015 Texas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capital, Austin, TX

Geraldine Lerner*

2015 Texas Society of Mammologists Annual Conference, Junction, TX

Alesha Rimmelin*

2015 Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, IL

Shebna Cheema*

2015 Annual Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Lubbock, TX

Huy Bui	Valerie Figueroa	Eloy Perez	Alice Turchaninova
Julio Enriquez	Guadalupe Lee		

2015 MAA Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURM) at Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Crystal Llanas* German Villalobos*

2014 American Medical Student Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA

Ryan Cherian	Christa Landowski	Chuks Mazi	Evelyn Valdez*
Sameer Habib	Guadalupe Lee	Princy Thomas	

2015 UHD Gender Conference, Houston, TX

Shanna Daniel*

2015 UT-Dallas 1st Computer Science Undergraduate Research Expo, Dallas, TX

Ngan Do*	Steve Leon*	Kishan Patel*	Harit Shah*
Jonathan Garza*			

2015 American Nuclear Society Student Conference, College Station, TX

Lisa Martinez* Charles Punnathara*

2015 Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), San Marcos, TX

Asma Aziz	Irin Girgis	Saima Valliani*	Sara Valliani*
-----------	-------------	-----------------	----------------

2015 South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) Annual Meeting and Student Paper Presentations, College Station, TX

Haneen Bayati Jim Chisholm*

2014 15th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair, Houston, TX

28 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

2015 14th Annual UHD Student Research Conference, Houston, TX

62 Student Posters and 7 Student Papers 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

Shebna Cheema Alesha Rimmelin Harit Shah

THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.

