UHD STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

12th ANNUAL

Sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy

Funded by the
National Science Foundation (0934913),
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC-27-10-1121),
Texas Workforce Commission Wagner Peyser,
The Brown Foundation, Inc., and UH-Downtown

A showcase of academic excellence demonstrated by UHD undergraduates majoring within the Colleges of Business, Humanities and Social Science, Public Service, and Sciences and Technology.

Friday, April 12, 2013

8:00 - 9:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast, Coffee House
9:00 am Dr. Mary Jo Parker, Director, Scholars Academy, UHD
   Introduction of UHD President, Auditorium
9:00 am Dr. William Flores, President, University of Houston-Downtown
   Welcoming Remarks, UHD Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium
9:10 am Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin, Professor, Department of Computer & Mathematical Sciences, UHD
   Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
9:10 - 9:40 am Dr. William Holtkamp, 2007 UHD Alumnus
   Software Engineer, OpenLink Financial
   Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
9:40 - 10:40 am Oral Presentations, Session I, Auditorium
10:50 - 12:05 pm Oral Presentations, Session II, Auditorium
12:10 - 1:20 pm Lunch Break
10:50 - 12:05 pm Oral Presentations, Session II, Auditorium
1:20 - 3:30 pm Open Poster Sessions, Room A300

Conference Co-Chairs:
Dr. Weiying Feng, Associate Professor of Engineering Technology, UHD
Dr. Aimee Roundtree, Associate Professor of English, UHD

Conference Planning Committee:
Dr. Maria Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor of Urban Education, UHD
Dr. David Brannam, Associate Professor of Social Sciences, UHD
Dr. Youn-Sha Chan, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UHD
Dr. Irene Chen, Professor of Urban Education, UHD
Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Associate Professor of Geology, UHD
Dr. Dr. Matthew Johnson, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, UHD
Dr. Lisa Morano, Chair of Natural Sciences Department, UHD
Dr. Mary Jo Parker, Director, UHD Scholars Academy
Dr. Lucille Pointer, Chair of Management, Marketing & Business Administration, UHD
Dr. Gene Preuss, Associate Professor of History, UHD
Dr. Ruth Robbins, Professor of Finance, Accounting and CIS, UHD
Dr. Akif Uzman, Interim Dean, UHD College of Sciences and Technology
Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon, Professor of Mathematics, UHD

Oral and Poster Presentations:
21 - Monica Flores, “Country Report: Pakistan”
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linanrud
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
30 - Brian Holtkamp, Deary Hudson, Joseph Johnson, Jr., “Social Crime Mapping, Geo Visual Sense Making of Social Data Sets”
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
32 - Zachariah Jaco, “Determining Thermal Properties of Oil Shales”
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
39 - Adolfo Lara, “Development of Novel Molecular Markers for Species-level Identification of Sea Anemones (Cnidaria, Actiniaria)”
   UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mercer Brugler and Estefania Rodriguez
   Project Location: American Museum of Natural History, New York
85 - Hailey McMin and Iris Silva-Obando, “Synthesis of Biodiesel using Cooking Oil from the Cafeteria at the University of Houston-Downtown”
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyra Lynne Hessel
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
50 - Tisha Patel, “Room Temperature Thermotropic Liquid Crystalline Phases of Catanionic Surfactants Derived from Quaternary Ammonium Surfactants and Bis(2-ethylhexyl)sulfosuccinate”
   Co-Authors: Troy Cather, Janusz Grebowicz, Drs. Pradip Bhowmik and Heasook Han (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robin Jose
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
51 - Ashely Poe, Cynthia Edwards, Desirae Mayo, “Good Parents Are Born Not Made: Socio-demographics’ Role in Developing Parental Beliefs”
   Co-Authors: Walther Heap
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan M. Henney
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
56 - Angela Rosales, “A Comparison Between a Wetland Mitigation Bank and a Natural Wetland Using Shannon’s Index”
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Hoge
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
63 - Miguel Tierrasfría, Cassandra Flores and Winford Becton, “Impact of Terror on Flavor and Aroma Profiles from Texas Hill Country Wines”
   Co-Authors: Jay Neal and Aaron Corsi (University of Houston)
   UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
   Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
Keynote Speaker:
William Holtkamp, Ph.D.
Software Engineer, OpenLink Financial

Biography: William is a Software Engineer from Houston, TX. He attended the University of Houston-Downtown and studied Computer Science. While at UHD, William was a member of the Scholars Academy and a computer science tutor. After graduating in 2007, he joined the PhD Program in Computer Sciences with a GAANN Fellowship at the University of Houston and graduated in 2012. William’s graduate research focused on improving user experiences and human computer interactions. Currently, William is working for OpenLink Financial, an energy/commodity trading and risk management company. He works with energy companies to build unique, intuitive user experiences in their commodity trading applications.

Presentation Title: “Research Is More Than Conclusions”

Presentation Abstract: On the surface, research is a manifestation humans use to investigate our world in a manner others have yet to uncover. At a universal level, research solves theoretical, financial, structural, biological, mathematical, and a whole host of other problems. At a lower, personal level, research gives each of us new experiences. These experiences teach us how to learn. They force us to question our world. They also help us grow as an individual. Overall, research is much more than a means to draw conclusions.

Poster Presentation Session I (1:20PM-2:25PM):

1 - Ana Alvarez and Brandy Ross, “Individual Differences in Goal Orientation, Relative Autonomy and Physical Activity in a Hybrid Physical Activity Course”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Bachman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

3 - David Amos, “A Quantum Mechanical Study of Ce(IV)-tetrakis(chatecholato) as a Model for Pu(IV)-tetrakis(chatecholato)”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Benavides
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

5 - Caroline Barbosa, “Analysis of Biofilm Growth Patterns of Pseudomonas putrefaciens and Mixed Species Cultures”
Co-Authors: Kimberly Walker, Antonio Mendoza, Lea Means
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Youn-Sha Chan 2 and Poonam Gulati 1
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

7 - Aura Beltran, Danya Leone, Alexsha Plageman, “Does the Body Define the Self? The Moderating Role of Appearance Contingent Self-Worth on Media Exposure and Disordered Eating”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melissa Raymundo
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

9 - Kelsey Bogaards, “Priming Moods and the Goal to Achieve of Goal Impediments”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Travis Crone
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

11 - Marisa Byers and Iris Escobar, “Examining the Cycle of Violence: How Childhood Exposure to Violence Relates to Perpetrator and Victim Blame”
Co-Author: Dr. Todd Moore (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cindy Stewart
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Ruth Johnson and Mary Portillo
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

14 - Raymond Cherian and Sarah Syed, “Could Platydmesmus Millipedes Dilute Their Risk of Predation by Aggregating?”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Barry Sullender
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

15 - Arrowdyne Chhit, Karla Clower and An-Nisa Miller, “Research Program in Atmospheric Science: Houston Ozone Studies”
Co-Author: Ebony Johnson
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Penny Morris-Smith and Donald Musselwhite
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

19 - Tiffany English, Shaiuana Washington and Charenda Williams, “It Takes A Village To Raise A Child… Or Does It? The Relationship between Discipline Beliefs and Ethnicity”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan M. Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

21 - Monica Flores, “Country Report: Pakistan”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

23 - Martha Cecilia Guerra, “Developing an Animal Model for the Study of Port-Wine Stain Disease”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Wagner
Project Location: Rice University

25 - Ana Lilian Guevara, “Genetic Identification and Evolutionary History of Pocket Gophers (genus Geomys) in Texas”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Baird
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

27 - Vanessa Hernandez, “Exploring Ephemerality in Social Media with Facebook Timebomb”
Co-Authors: Irene Kwok, Takayla Sexton
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heather Lipford
Project Location: University of North Carolina - Charlotte

29 - Seth Hoch, “Analyzing the Own-Race Bias Across Race and Gender in the Hispanic/Latino Population”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Ruth Johnson and Mary Portillo
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

31 - Mary-Catherine Ivie, “Low Teacher Morale in Today’s Classrooms”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Claude Robinson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vassilios Tzouanas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

35 - Pallawi KC, Pablo Rivera, “A New Approach To Make Thick Nickel(II) hydroxide Film and Its Application”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Justin Hackett
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
39 - Adolfo Lara, “Development of Novel Molecular Markers for Species-level Identification of Sea Anemones (Cnidaria, Actiniaria)”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mercer Brugler and Estefania Rodriguez
Project Location: American Museum of Natural History, New York

41 - Karen Marquez, “Faith and Religion According to Emily Dickinson”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Drs. William Gilbert and Robin Davidson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

43 - Alfonso Mondragon, Balkrishna Patel, John Morgan, “Structural Test Of A Reinforced Concrete Frame”
Co-Authors: Nickolas Warren, Omar Abdulkareem
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Alberto Gomez-Rivas and Jorge A Tito
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

45 - Julie Nash, “Evaluation of Xylella fastidiosa Bacterial Load in a Grapevine Variety Trial”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

47 - Shaneela Omar, “A New Trophobiotic System involving the Fulgoridae in Panama”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Barry Sullender
Project Location: Panama and University of Houston-Downtown

49 - Balkrishna Patel, Nickolas Warren, Juanita Ortega, “Comparison of a Rectangular and a T-Shaped Reinforced Concrete Beams”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alberto Gomez-Rivas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

51 - Ashely Poe, Cynthia Edwards, Desirae Mayo, “Good Parents Are Born Not Made: Sociodemographics’ Role in Developing Parental Beliefs”
Co-Author: Walther Heap
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan M. Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

53 - Mariel Ritcher, “Study of Plagiogyxis declivis”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phyllis Griffard
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

55 - Bryce Romero and DaNae Woodard, “ALU 350 Oligomer Replacement”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byron Christmas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown and University of Houston

57 - Yesenia Salazar, “Energy of Benzenoid Graphs”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sergiy Koshkin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

59 - A. Meghan Santiago, Dayna Spencer, “Antimicrobial Properties of UV-Polymerized Films”
Co-Authors: Tori Dumas, Sanam Miaji, DaNae Woodard
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Byron Christmas and Poonam Gulati
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

61 - Christian Smallwood, Manuel Guerra, Kenneth Merrill, “Age and Intergroup Perceptions During the 2012 Presidential Election”
Co-Authors: Zadai Castillo, Zoya Hadi
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Justin Hackett
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

63 - Miguel Tierrafria, Cassandra Flores and Winford Becton, “Impact of Torroir on Flavor and Aroma Profiles from Texas Hill Country Wines”
Co-Authors: Jay Neal and Aaron Corsi (University of Houston)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

67 - Reyna Valdez and DeAnna Ayupova, “Screening Novel Synthetic Compounds for their Cytotoxicity and Mechanism of Cell Death”
Co-Author: Kafayat Bubasi
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachna Sadana
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

69 - Edgar Vazquez, “Invariant Dominations on Cayley Graphs”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ermelinda Delavila
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

71 - Christopher Zdenek, “Granitic Magmatism Associated With The Variscan-Age Moldanubian Batholith, Czech Republic: A Geochemical Comparison Between The Máriokin And Klusov Plutons”
Co-Authors: Kryštof Vernér and Jiří Žák (Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Charles University, Albertov 6, Prague, Czech Republic)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Service Learning
Poster Presentation Session I (1:20PM-2:25PM):

73 - Shamsa Ali and Carolina Perez Lopez, “Service Learning: Recycling to Help Our Environment”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

75 - Rebecca Barbosa and Elsy Rivera, “Serving Greater Houston’s Casa Juan Diego”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

77 - Christopher Carbone and Raymond Cherian, “Service Learning at The Lighthouse of Houston”
Co-Authors: Lilian Antunes, Livina Anyiam, Marilyn Davila, David Flores, Judith Gallardo, Rosario Garcia, Chelsea Harris, Danial Khan, Nnenna Kpando, Fersen Leiva
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

79 - Shebna Cheema and Eyleen Lopez, “Service Learning: Science Comes Alive!”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Maria Bhattacharjee and Poonam Gulati
Project Location: Crockett Elementary School and University of Houston-Downtown

81 - Ryan Cherian, Henderson Jones, Josh Landecker, Kushal Patel, Candice Polk, “Service Learning: Tree Signage on UHD Campus”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phyllis Griffard
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Co-Author: Linda Onyirimba
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

85 - Hailey McMinn and Iris Silva-Obando, “Synthesis of Biodiesel using Cooking Oil from the Cafeteria at the University of Houston-Downtown”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyra Lynne Hessell
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

87 - Sara Taghakkani, “Service Learning at Project C.U.R.E.”
Co-Authors: Iris Silva-Obando, Caroline Barbosa, Karla Castro, Christian Escobar, Sandy Gramajo, Jimmy Ngo, Linda Onyirimba, Karla Rios, Massiel Rubio, Shima Taghikhani, and Briana Villarreal
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

89 - Simran Singh, Ahmed Shaban and Rafael de la Flor, “The Effect of Hand Sanitizer and Soap in Reducing Bacterial Growth”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phyllis Griffard
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown and University of Houston

Poster Presentation Session II (2:25PM-3:30PM):

2 - David Amos, “On the K-residue of Disjoint Unions of Graphs with Applications to K-Independence”
Co-Author: Randy Davila
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ryan Pepper
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

4 - Kiara Arroyo Andrade, Luis Lopez, Evelyn Valdez, “The Feasibility of the Super Soldier Serum in Reality from the Movie Captain America”
Co-Authors: Persis Montes, Francisco Rivera, Logan Scott
UHD Faculty Mentor: Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

6 - Aubry Barone, Chris Carbone, Jenny George, “Technology Exceeding Human Capabilities”
Co-Authors: Ryan Cherian, David Flores, Timothy McGinty, Michell Mora, Rheihana Abdelmaksoud
UHD Faculty Mentor: Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
10 - Christopher Bonilla and Alyssa Enriquez, “Dynamic System Control with Siemens Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Weinig Feng
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

12 - Rogelio Camacho, Jim Chisholm, “Big Bend National Park: Examination of Geological Possibilities for Nuclear Waste Storage”
Co-Authors: Ashley Cunningham, Allie Feiwell, Julio Mercado, Mariel Richter, Monica Rodriguez
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: Big Bend National Park

Co-Authors: Zachariah Jaco and Joseph Downing
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

18 - Truong Doan, Sanjo Peter and Matthew Stevenson, “Temperature and Level Control of a Multivariable Tank”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vassilios Tsouanas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

20 - Brienna Fisher, “Columbia - A Country at War with Itself”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

22 - Duber Gomez-Fonseca, “Graduating from College and Applying for Grad School is a “Piece of Cake” using CPM and PERT”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Timothy Redl
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

24 - Wesley Gonzales, Minh Le, Andrew Yen, “AM and FM Radio Transmissions”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Weinig Feng
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

26 - Dawn Harrison and Sanjo Peter, “Simulation and Analysis of the Styrene Production Process”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vassilios Tsouanas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

28 - Karina Henriquez, “New Assay for Se (IV) in the presence of Se(VI) and Humic Acid”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of North Carolina - Charlotte

30 - Brian Holtkamp, Deary Hudson, Joseph Johnson, Jr., “Social Crime Mapping, Geo Visual Sense Making of Social Data Sets”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

32 - Zachariah Jaco, “Determining Thermal Properties of Oil Shales”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

34 - Escat Jimenez Leon, “Voltammetric Determination of Melatonin, Quinic Acid, and their Interaction”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

36 - Srijan KC, Anthony Moore and Allan Soto, “Gene Expression of the bacterium Xylella fastidiosa when Exposed to Sap of Susceptible and Tolerant Grape Varieties”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Lisa Morano and Aikif Uzman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

38 - Danial Khan, Eloy Perez, Alice Turchaninova and Westley Wrightson, “The Iron Man Suit: A Possibility?”
Co-Authors: Miguel Lopez, Felix Martinez, Angela Rosales
UHD Faculty Mentor: Mitsue Nakamura
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

40 - Flor Lopez, “Patterns in Language Mixing Among First and Second Generation Hispanic Bilinguals in Houston”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rey Romero
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Co-Author: Caroline Barbosa
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Yoom-Sha Chan and Poonam Gulati
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

44 - Tony Moreno, Massiel Rubio, Sujuan Devkota, “Interaction of Soil Characteristics, Vine Vigor and Wine Production in the Texas Hill Country”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Ken Johnson and Lisa Morano
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

46 - Vy Nguyen, Latoya Smith and Dat Ho, “Brain State Analysis Web Access”
Co-Author: Khoa Nguyen
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hong Lin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

48 - Jacob Outlaw, “Identity Theft: Can You Recover?”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Linda Bressler
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

50 - Tilesh Patel, “Room Temperature Thermotropic Liquid Crystalline Phases of Catonic Surfactants Derived from Quaternary Ammonium Surfactants and Bis(2-ethylhexyl)sulfosuccinates”
Co-Authors: Troy Cather, Janusz Grebowicz, Drs. Pradip Bhownik and Heasook Han (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robin Jose
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

52 - Stephen Reagin, “Quantum Algorithm for Square Root of a Matrix”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sergiy Koshkin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

54 - Mariel Ritcher, “Tonalitic-Trondhjemitic Magmatism From Garnet-Bearing And Garnet-Free Migmatized Amphibolites On Pollock Mountain, Western Idaho: Estimating Melt Compositions From Hombolde Trace Element Data”
Co-Authors: Joshua J. Schwartz (Department of Geological Sciences, California State University Northridge) and Melanie A. Barnes (Department of Geosciences, Texas Tech University)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

56 - Angela Rosales, “A Comparison Between a Wetland Mitigation Bank and a Natural Wetland Using Shannon’s Index”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Hoge
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

58 - Yesenia Salazar, “Thermal Properties of Salt”
Co-Author: Joseph Downing
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

60 - Timothy Singleton, “Multifactorial Origins of Complex Inherited Disorders”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. David Herman and Phyllis Griffard
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

62 - Sara Taghikhani and Kamar Shaik, “Inhibition of Streptococcus mutans in Oral Biofilms Using Natural Inhibitors”
Co-Authors: Jimmy Ngo, Shima Taghikhani
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Poonam Gulati
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

64 - Christina Tran, “Phylogeography of Lasiusinus cinereus: Molecular Evidence for Multiple Invasions of the Hawaiian Islands”
Co-Author: John Bickham (Battelle Memorial Institute)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Baird
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

65 - Dat Truong, “Novel Voltammetric Assay for H2O2 and Other Small Organic Molecules Based on Carbon-Nickel Composites”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

66 - Mau Truong and John Geza, “Formulative Properties of a Newly Developed Low Viscosity Diacrylate-Functional Epoxy-Based Oligomer”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byron Christmas
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
Service Learning
Poster Presentation Session II (2:25PM-3:30PM):

68 - Reyna Valdez, Bhumi Patel and DeAnna Ayupova, “Screening Synthetic Analogues of Marine Natural Products for their Cytotoxicity and Mechanism of Cell Death”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachna Sadana
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

70 - Christina Zahratka, “The Effects of a Graduation Prime on Perceptions of Goal Impediments”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Travis Crone
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

88 – Kendall Wilkerson, “High Temperature Phase Transitions in Naturally Occurring Zeolites”
Co-Author: Zachariah Jaco
UHD Faculty Mentor: Drs. Janusz Grebowicz and Ken Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

72 - Melis Alan, “Green Chemistry”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyra Lynne Hessel
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

74 - Livina Anyiam, Ryan Cherian and Jessica Hernando, “STEM of Hope”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Jo Parker
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

76 - Aubry Barone, Danial Khan and Vincent Pham, “Service Learning at The Beacon”

82 - Hwan-Ghee Choi and Jimmy Ngo, “Service Learning Project: From Garbage to Garden”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Maria Bhattacharjee and Poonam Gulati
Project Locations: Crockett Elementary School and University of Houston-Downtown

86 - Elsy Rivera and Henderson Jones, “Community Rabbit Project: Introducing Rabbits to Last Organic Outpost Playground”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phyllis Griffard
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown and University of Houston

Acknowledgements
It is a great pleasure to recognize the many individuals, organizations, and institutions supporting our UHD students in their research endeavors. These include significant funding of research over the past year from the National Science Foundation UBM Program (0734294), National Science Foundation Noyce Program (0934913), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (SDB-27-10-1211), Texas Workforce Commission (2813WPB000), The Brown Foundation, Inc., Welch Foundation (BJ-0027), Shell Oil Co. and University of Houston-Downtown.

Many students conducted their research during summer research programs on and off-campus. Faculty and staff members of these and other academic institutions, as well as personnel at industrial facilities, have generously supported/mentored our UHD students.

In addition, we would like to thank the UHD faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to support undergraduate research experiences as well as the UHD staff, faculty and administrators who have helped make this conference a success.

Thank you for participating in the 12th Annual UHD Student Research Conference!
Please share your impressions of the event by completing a conference evaluation.

Thanks to the generous supporters of this student conference:

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National Science Foundation (Award Nos. 0728408, 0934913)
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UHD College of Business
UHD College of Humanities and Social Sciences
UHD College of Public Service
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