

**The Scholars Academy is Supported by:**



**National Science Foundation**

0336612 – DUE STEM Talent Expansion Program  
0324053 – DUE Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships Program  
9900893 – EHR Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation



**State of Texas Legislature**

K-2-01024 – Joint Admission Medical Program



**U.S. Army Research Office**

W911NF-04-1-0024 – HBCU/MI Infrastructure Support Program  
DAAD19-02-1-0430 – HBCU/MI Undergraduate Scholarship  
DAAD19-02-1-0459 – HBCU/MI Undergraduate Scholarship



**U.S. Department of Education**

P120A020069 – Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program



**U.S. Office of Naval Research**

N0014-99-1-0950 – SEM Education Programs for HBCU/MI/TCU



**University of Houston-Downtown**

# *Awards Convocation*



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: 713-222-5356; [scholars@dt.uh.edu](mailto:scholars@dt.uh.edu); [www.uhd.edu/scholars](http://www.uhd.edu/scholars)

## *May 3, 2005*

## Star Award

In December 2004, UHD Scholars Academy was awarded the **Texas Higher Education Star Award**, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to recognize exemplary contributions toward closing the educational gaps that challenge the state. The Scholars Academy has received acknowledgement nationally as an exemplar for fostering academic success within an urban university environment.

Many thanks to Dr. Larry Spears, Dr. Suzette Mouchaty and Mr. Rene Garcia for their submission of the Star Award Application. Congratulations to all the SA members, faculty and staff for your special contributions to the program. You have built one of the finest programs in the state and the country, and you should all be very proud.



Above picture (left to right): Dr. Larry Spears receiving award from Jerry Farrington, THECB Chairman.

Below at the Star Awards Ceremony (left to right): Dr. Vicky Estrera; Dr. Scott Slough; Dr. Richard Alo; UHD President, Dr. Max Castillo; Dr. Akif Uzman; Dr. Larry Spears; Mr. Rene Garcia; UHD VP for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Molly Woods; Dr. Weining Feng; and Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo



## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2005

Mohammad Abedi	Fabiola Cortez	Okezie Igboeli	Marlin Mathews	Arbelia Roman
Kethlyn Africa	Olaolu Davies-Balogun	Melanie Iida	Ana Medina	Jose Sandoval
Nayef Al-Thani	Esmeralda Del Fierro	Brian Iken	Paula Medrano	Muna Saqer
Karla Alvarez	Emily DeLaGarza	Jose Jaimes	Ruby Mendez	Christopher Sharpe
Adolfo Aranzales	Anita Delgadillo	Shazma Jamal	Claudia Mendez	Olga Soto
Derrick Archer	Mohamed Diarra	Stephanie Jones	Rim Mohamed	Shaun Spencer
Shidrokh Ardestani	Jannie Dilber	Adam Jordan	Victoria Morillon	William Stegall
Christopher Ash, Jr.	Kim-Hue Dinh	Kimoy Joseph	Alma Munoz	Fouad Tabbaq
Jose Barajas	Ross Eglund	Jonathon Keele	Aaron Murray	Ping Tang
Lee Anne Barkley	Diamantina Escobedo	William Keele	Orest Mushi	Tarfa Tarar
Floribel Beiza	Andres Fals	Usman Khan	Wilmer Naranjo	Mohamed Temnati
Vanessa Benavides	Eimy Flores	Adnane Kidari	Cynthia Ngonga	Brian Terry
Ramona Bernard	Thomas Foster	Chad Kocurek	Thu Nguyen	Juan Tito
Imene Bokhetache	Sergio Gallardo	Charlotte Konikoff	Hunter Nguyen	Hung Tran
William Botkins, Jr.	Juan Gallegos	Jeeba Kuriakose	Mai Nguyen	Ngan Truong
Christopher Bowes	Jose Gamez	Vien Lam	Kristine Nguyen	Borislava Tsanova
Daniel Brenes	Jose Garcia	Mai Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Marco Tzorin
Kevin Phuong Bui	Elaine Garcia	David Lang	Shamsideen Ojelade	Odira Ughanze
Joshua Burr	Elizabeth Garza	Diana Leal	Moriam Ojelade	Mary Vallesteros
Jennifer Bustos	Mario Garza	Lisa Leija	Cynthia Olvera	Justin Varghese
Prince Buzombo	Rolando Garza	Juan Leon	Jennie Orellana	Horacio Villarreal
Wendy Callejas	Adewale Giwa	Nadia Lera	Eloy Ortega	Amanda Walker
Kimberly Cantrell	Mario Gonzalez	Claudio Lima, Jr.	Moses Osoro	William Watson
Dulce Carbajal	Arely Gonzalez	Whitman Liu	Ariana Paniagua	Tek Williams
Michael Carolan	Lauren Gracia	Dexter Loa	Giovanna Patino	Vance Wise
Jana Carter	Iride Gramajo	Christopher Lopez	Lucio Patino	Yi-Hua Wu
Laura Castellanos	Celina Guillen	Elizabeth Magreola	Mesias Pedroza	Sarah Xie-DeSoto
Francisco Castillo	Estefania Gutierrez	Donica Manak	Sohail Penkar	Mohamed Zemmouri
Aura Chapa	Ngan Ha	Steven Manak	Kristi Pennington	Geza Zirzzy
Tiffanie Chatman	Amir Hadaegh	Shuaib Mansoori	Trisha Pfluger	Aicam Zouhair
Candy Chavez	Fadi Haikal	Jenny Martinez	Tan Pham	
Daisy Cherian	Sean Hattenbach	Claudia Martinez	Tai Pham	
David Cherian	Ginger Haug	Carol Martinez	Dechdoung Prakoth	
Shih Bin Chiu	Lesslie Hernandez	Troy Mason	Carlos Ramirez	
Eric Contreras	Moses Hernandez	Karim Masri	Patricia Ramon	
Leslie Cook	Hilda Hinojosa	Jahaziel Mata	Juan Razo	
Alicia Corazon	William Holtkamp	Linu Mathew	Rachel Richison	
Nydia Cordero	Susanna Hooper	Sanu Mathew	Brian Rodriguez	

## Honor Corps

### First Year

Mohammad Abedi  
Nayef Al-Thani  
Karla Alvarez  
Lee Anne Barkley  
David Cherian  
Rolando Garza  
Celina Guillen  
Ngan Ha  
Fadi Haikal  
Sean Hattenbach  
Adnane Kidari  
Charlotte Konikoff

Vien Lam  
Nadia Lera  
Whitman Liu  
Troy Mason  
Karim Masri  
Moriam Ojelade  
Erik Olstad  
Moses Osoro  
Blythe Parham  
Sohail Penkar  
Dechdoug Prakoth  
Muna Saqer  
Olga Soto

William Stegall  
Ping Tang  
Mohammed Temnati  
Brian Terry  
Justin Varghese  
Sarah Xie-DeSoto  
Aicam Zouhair

### Second Year

Prince Buzombo  
Dulce Carbajal  
Esmeralda Del Fierro  
Sergio Gallardo  
David Lang

Giovanna Patino  
Jose Sandoval

### Third Year

Iride Gramajo  
Mai Nguyen  
Horacio Villarreal

### Fourth Year

Shih Bin Chiu  
Juan Gallegos  
Jeeba Kuriakose  
Mai Lam

## Awards Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

### Special Recognition:

#### Scholarship Achievements

##### Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Tiffanie Chatman Vien Lam Shafeeq Noorudeen

##### Red Rose Scholars

Mohammad Abedi Dulce Carbajal Vien Lam Moses Osoro  
Prince Buzombo Adnane Kidari Karim Masri Jose Sandoval

### Research Achievements

#### Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2004 to Spring 2005)

Mohammad Abedi	Elizabeth Garza	Tittu Mathew
Nayef Al-Thani	Arely Gonzalez	Chris McIntyre
Ugo Anayanwu	Iride Gramajo	Claudia Mendez
Hassan Asif	Celina Guillen	Aaron Murray
Deedra Balli	Ngan Ha	Mai Nguyen
Lee Anne Barkley	Cyril Harris	Moses Osoro
Ramona Bernard	Sean Hattenbach	Giovanna Patino
Kristi Bishop	Hilda Hinojosa	Lucio Patino
Joshua Burr	William Holtkamp	Sohail Penkar
Jennifer Bustos	Ron Hoppe	Trisha Pfluger
Prince Buzombo	Jose Jaimes	Dechdoug Prokoth
Kimberly Cantrell	Jeeba Kuriakose	Juan Razo
Colin Carandang	Mai Lam	Brian Rodriguez
Dulce Carbajal	Vien Lam	Janeth Sanchez
Michael Carolan	David Lang	Shaun Spencer
Alex Chan	Lesley Leggett	William Stegall
Tiffanie Chatman	Lisa Leija	Ping Tang
Daisy Cherian	Jim Little	Borislava Tsanova
David Cherian	Whitman Liu	Justin Varghese
Leslie Cook	Chris Lopez	Sarah Xie-DeSoto
Jannie Dilber	Claudia Martinez	
Sergio Gallardo	Teresa Martinez	

## Graduating Seniors

Daniel Brenes  
Jennifer Bustos  
Charles Chiu  
Tim Davies  
Esmeralda Del Fierro  
Sergio Gallardo  
Juan Gallegos

Rolando Garza  
Elizabeth Garza  
Arely Gonzalez  
Iride Gramajo  
Fadi Haikal  
Hilda Hinojosa

William Keele  
Jeeba Kuriakose  
David Lang  
Diana Leal  
Lisa Leija  
Mai Nguyen

Giovanna Patino  
Dechdoug Prakoth  
Carlos Ramirez  
Muna Saqer  
Mohamed Temnati  
Sarah Xie-DeSoto

## Scholars Academy Staff

Administrative Secretary: Ms. Gabriela Galvan  
Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura  
Program Coordinator: Mr. Rene Garcia  
Program Evaluator: Dr. Scott Slough  
Student Assistants: Laura Castellanos, Kevin Dorsey, Mary Vallesteros

## Co-Directors

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

## Scholars Academy Members Spring 2005



## Student Presentations at

### Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings

*American Society for the Advancement of Science Washington, D.C.*

Colin Carandang Patricia Ramon

*American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology Annual Conference*

Wendy Callejas\*

*Annual Research Symposium at UT-Brownsville/TSC*

Lisa Leija\*

*Evolution 2005 from the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists,  
and the American Society of Naturalists*

Dulce Carbajal

*LSAMP Student Research Conference*

Tim Davies	William Holtkamp	Chris McIntyre	Patricia Ramon
Cyril Harris	Mai Lam	Aaron Murray	William Stegall

*MAA Texas Section Meeting*

Iride Gramajo

*MGE at MSA / WAESO Student Research Conference*

Daniel Brenes	David Cherian	Fadi Haikal	Vien Lam
Colin Carandang	Leslie Cook	Jeeba Kuriakose	Juan Razo
Dulce Carbajal	Arely Gonzalez		

*National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference*

Colin Carandang\* Leslie Cook\* Gina Miles (SJCN)\*

*PLTL National Conference*

Daniel Brenes Jennifer Bustos Juan Gallegos

*Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference*

Daniel Brenes Iride Gramajo\* Moses Osoro  
Elizabeth Garza Claudia Mendez

*Texas Academy of Sciences*

Leslie Cook\* Leslie Leggett\* Juan Razo

*Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology*

Dulce Carbajal\* Jannie Dilber Moses Osoro  
Leslie Cook Fadi Haikal

*UH Sigma Xi Meeting*

Deedra Ball\* Judith Vasquez

*UTHSCH Undergraduate Research Conference*

Imene Bokhetache\* Dulce Carbajal Arely Gonzalez  
Prince Buzombo David Cherian

*Fifth Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair*

25 Student Posters from the College of Sciences and Technology

*Fourth Annual UHD Student Research Conference*

55 Student Posters from the College of Sciences and Technology

\* Indicates an award was presented to this student for their presentation

## Student Organization Leaders

Organization Name

American Chemical Society  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Birds and Bats on the Bayou  
Environmental Club  
Geology Club  
Health Professions Organization  
Leeuwenhoek Society  
Mathematical Association of America  
SA Members Organization

President

Brian Rodriguez  
Bao Tran  
Brian Rodriguez  
David Lang  
Judith Vazquez  
Jose Sandoval  
Colin Carandang  
Rim Mohamed  
Vien Lam

Advisor

Dr. Christmas  
Dr. Chen and Dr. Yuan  
Dr. Morano  
Dr. Morano  
Dr. Merrill  
Dr. Gulati  
Dr. Gulati  
Dr. DeLaVina and Dr. Tecarro  
Ms. Nakamura

## Peer Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

William Botkins	Juan Gallegos	Po-Hsien Kua	Patricia Ramon
Daniel Brenes	Victor Garcia	Aaron Murray	Olga Soto
Shih-Bin Chiu	Chris Harrison	Mai Nguyen	Daniel Valdez
Emily DeLaGarza	William Keele	Tan Pham	

## Computer & Mathematical Science Tutors

Hassan Asif	Laura Castellanos	Chris Harrison	Chris McIntyre
Kevin Phuong Bui	Shih-Bin Chiu	William Keele	Mai Nguyen
Jennifer Bustos	Iride Gramajo	Gita Maisuria	Daniel Valadez

## Engineering Technology Tutors

Nayef Al-Thani

## Natural Science Tutors

Mohammad Abedi	Colin Carandang	Charlotte Konikoff	Karim Masri
Imene Bokhetache	Dulce Carbajal	Jeeba Kuriakose	Tek Williams
Daniel Brenes	Arely Gonzalez	Diana Leal	

## Peer Mentors

Senior PM: Iride Gramajo			
Daniel Brenes	Leslie Cook	Elaine Garcia	Mai Lam
Jennifer Bustos	Sergio Gallardo	Arely Gonzalez	Diana Leal
Laura Castellanos	Juan Gallegos	William Holtkamp	Mai Nguyen
Daisy Cherian	Jose Gamez	Jeeba Kuriakose	Sarah Xie-DeSoto

## Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Poonam Gulati	Dr. Phil Lyons	Dr. Edwin Tecarro
Dr. Ali Berrached	Dr. Erin Hodgess	Dr. Deanna McCullough	Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo
Dr. Byron Christmas	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Lisa Morano	Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon
Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Kenneth Johnson	Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin	

In December 2004, the Scholars Academy was happy to celebrate the graduation of four members.

Lesley Leggett – cum laude  
Teresa Martinez  
Hassan Asif – cum laude  
Cyril Harris

