

The Scholars Academy is Supported by:



National Science Foundation

0336612 – DUE STEM Talent Expansion Program
0324053 – DUE Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships Program
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State of Texas Legislature

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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

P120A050068 – Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program
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

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; www.uhd.edu/scholars

Spring Convocation



May 2, 2006

Sigma Xi Awards

UHD Scholars Academy members presented their scientific research posters and each received an award for their scientific poster presentations and research in November 2005 at the **Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference** in Seattle, Washington. Through the National Science Foundation (0336612) and U.S. Army Research Office (W911NF-04-1-0024), research opportunities are made possible for undergraduates at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) and the San Jacinto College North (SJCN).



Above is a picture of the twelve students (ten UHD and two SJCN students) who presented and were awarded second or third place at the Sigma Xi Conference. Drs. Phil Lyons (UHD biology faculty) and Eric Carson (SJCN geology faculty member) also attended the conference with the students. NSF and ARO funded travel support for six students each, and NSF supported the two faculty. Additionally, a majority of these students and faculty conducted their research on campus at UHD within the last year and half with support from NSF and ARO.

2nd Place Awards: Deedra Balli; Colin Carandang; Dulce Carbajal; Leslie Cook; Celina Guillen; Carol Morris (SJCN); Juan Razo; and Tek Williams

3rd Place Awards: David Cherian; Kyle Garmany (SJCN); Vien Lam; and Justin Varghese

Scholars Academy Members Spring 2006

Mohammad Abedi	Leslie Cook	Usman Khan	Binh Nguyen	Marvin Stephen
Henia Abid	Alicia Corazon	Adnane Kidari	Hunter Nguyen	Fouad Tabbaq
Jennifer Abrams	Nydia Cordero	Jamie Klingman	Kristine Nguyen	Sinath Tadoum
Kethlyn Africa	Fabiola Cortez	Chad Kocurek	Phuong Nguyen	Francis Tan
Betul Akin	Emily DeLaGarza	Charlotte Konikoff	Thu Nguyen	Tarfa Tarar
Nayef Al-Thani	Mohamed Diarra	Carlos Lacayo, Jr.	Thuy-Linh Nguyen	Brian Terry
Karla Alvarez	Jannie Dilber	Nguyen Lam	Tom (Si) Nguyen	Juan Tito
Adolfo Aranzales	Josephine Dilber	Vien Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Antonio Tito, Jr.
Shidrokh Ardestani	Jason Donovan	Phoebe Laurent	Shajeer Noorudeen	Hung Tran
Rosalinda Arenas	Adam Drake	Nadia Lera	Moriam Ojelade	Borislava Tsanova
Christopher Ash, Jr.	David Espino	Claudio Lima, Jr.	Shamsideen Ojelade	Marco Tzorin
Nelly Baltierrez	Hiana Fajardo	Christopher Lopez	Cynthia Olvera	Mary Vallesteros
Xena Bannis	Andres Fals	Liem Luong	Jennie Orellana	Justin Varghese
Araly Barrera	Clarissa Fletcher	Elizabeth Magreola	Eloy Ortega	Mario Vasquez
Dana Baryam	Emy Flores	Arnulfo Maldonado	Moses Osoro	Avani Verma
Floribel Beiza	Thomas Foster	Donica Manak	Blythe Parham	An Vo
Vanessa Benavides	Jonathan Gamez	Steven Manak	Mesias Pedroza	Amanda Walker
Imene Bokhetache	Elaine Garcia	Shuaib Mansoori	Kristi Pennington	William Watson
Reyna Bonilla	Mario Garza	Amber Martinez	Hugo Peralta	Courtney Watts
Christopher Bowes	Nerissa Gomez	Jenny Martinez	Krista Perdue	Jonathan Whittenton
Richard Bryant	Arelly Gonzalez	Troy Mason	Trisha Pfluger	Tek Williams
Hector Bucio	Lauren Gracia	Karim Masri	Tan Pham	Mohamed Zemmouri
Prince Buzombo	Celina Guillen	Sanu Mathew	Fabian Ramirez	Hiba Zwiya
Wendy Callejas	Robyn Hanna	Marlin Mathews	Patricia Ramon	
Ambar Cancino	Muhammad Hassan	Gloria Matta-Aldana	Juan Razo	
Kimberly Cantrell	Sean Hattenbach	Robin May	Rachel Richison	
Dulce Carbajal	Ginger Haug	Victoria Mbachu	Brian Rodriguez	
Michael Carolan	William Holtkamp	Lee Anne McGaha	Reuben Rodriguez	
Jana Carter	Okezie Igboeli	Paula Medrano	Arbelia Roman	
Laura Castellanos	Brian Iken	Claudia Mendez	Jose Sandoval	
Francisco Castillo	Joseph Irving	Ruby Mendez	Danyal Shaikh	
Teofilo Chacon	Jose Jaimes	Rim Mohamed	Christopher Sharpe	
Tiffanie Chatman	Stephanie Jones	Sahreesh Momin	Olga Soto	
Daisy Cherian	Swati Kale	Victoria Morillon	Nicolas Spampinato	
David Cherian	P.T. Kolitha Karunaratne	Aaron Murray	Shaun Spencer	
Grantley Christie	Jonathon Keele	Wilmer Naranjo	William Stegall	

Awards Program

2006 Honor Corps

First Year

Henia Abid	Brian Iken	Stephanie Jones
Jennifer Abrams	Jamie Klingman	Juan Tito
Shidrokh Ardestani	Claudio Lima	Hung Tran
Imene Bokhetache	Sanu Mathew	Borislava Tsanova
Jana Carter	Gloria Matta-Aldana	Hiba Zwiya
Teofilo Chacon	Paula Medrano	
Nydia Cordero	Wilmer Naranjo	
Emily DeLaGarza	Kristine Nguyen	
Jason Donovan	Shafeeq Noorudeen	
Jose Gamez	Eloy Ortega	
Mario Garza	Trisha Pflugger	
Ginger Haug	Fabian Ramirez	
William Holtkamp	Shaun Spencer	

Second Year

Mohammad Abedi
Nayef Al-Thani
Karla Alvarez
David Cherian
Celina Guillen
Sean Hattenbach

Third Year

Prince Buzombo
Dulce Carbajal
Jose Sandoval

Adnane Kidari
Vien Lam
Nadia Lera
Karim Masri
Lee Anne McGaha
Moriam Ojelade
Moses Osoro
William Stegall
Brian Terry

Spring 2006 Graduating Seniors

Mohammad Abedi	Elaine Garcia	Adnane Kidari
Nayef Al-Thani	Sean Hattenbach	Jamie Klingman
Vanessa Benavides	Okezie Igboeli	Chad Kocurek
Imene Bokhetache	Brian Iken	Charlotte Konikoff
Dulce Carbajal	Jose Jaimes	Nadia Lera
Leslie Cook	Stephanie Jones	Chris Lopez
Jannie Dilber	Kolitha Karunartne	Karim Masri
Jason Donovan	Usman Khan	Ruby Mendez

Kristine Nguyen
Tan Pham
Arbelia Roman
Jose Sandoval
Fouad Tabbaq
Borislava Tsanova
Tek Williams

Scholars Academy Staff

Administrative Secretary: Ms. Gabriela Galvan
 Director: Dr. Vicky Estrera
 Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura
 Program Manager: Mr. Rene Garcia
 Student Assistants: Laura Castellanos, Carlos Lacayo, Jennie Orellana

Co-Directors

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



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

Special Recognition:

Scholarship Achievements

Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Vien Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen
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Red Rose Scholars for 2005-2006

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

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	

Research Achievements

Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2005 to Spring 2006)

Mohammad Abedi	Emily DeLaGarza	Jeeba Kuriakose	Fabian Ramirez
Betul Akin	Mohamed Diarra	Mai Lam	Patricia Ramon
Nayef Al-Thani	Jannie Dilber	Nguyen Lam	Juan Razo
Shidrokh Ardestani	Adam Drake	Vien Lam	Brian Rodriguez
Vanessa Benavides	Thomas Foster	Juan Leon	Arbelia Roman
William Botkins, Jr.	Mario Garza	Nadia Lera	Jose Sandoval
Christopher Bowes	Adewale Giwa	Karim Masri	Olga Soto
Prince Buzombo	Ngan Ha	Marlin Mathews	Marvin Stephen
Wendy Callejas	Muhammad Hassan	Lee Anne McGaha	Ping Tang
Kimberly Cantrell	Sean Hattenbach	Paula Medrano	Tarfa Tarar
Colin Carandang	William Holtkamp	Ruby Mendez	Mohamed Temnati
Dulce Carbajal	Susanna Hooper	Rim Mohamed	Antonio Tito
Michael Carolan	Okezie Igboeli	Hunter Nguyen	Juan Tito
Teofilo Chacon	Brian Iken	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Hung Tran
David Cherian	Jose Jaimes	Moriam Ojelade	Borislava Tsanova
Grantley Christie	Stephanie Jones	Shamsideen Ojelade	Marco Tzorin
Leslie Cook	Adam Jordan	Moses Osoro	Peter Villarreal
Alicia Corazon	Usman Khan	Mesias Pedroza	William Watson
Nydia Cordero	Adnane Kidari	Kristi Pennington	Hiba Zwiya
Fabiola Cortez	Chad Kocurek	Trisha Pflugger	

Student Attendance and Presentations at Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings

Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Anaheim, CA

Jose Barajas	Muhammad Hassan	William Holtkamp	Chad Kocurek	Khoa Phan
Dulce Carbajal	Moses Hernandez	Adnane Kidari	Aaron Murray	Danny Suhendar

Mathematical Association of America (MAA) National Meeting, San Antonio, TX

Adam Drake*	Craig Foster*	Rim Mohamed
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The More Graduate Education at Mountain States Alliance (MGE@MSA)/Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Student Research Conference, Tempe, AZ

Vanessa Benavides*	Daisy Cherian*	Marlin Mathews*	Tek Williams*
Colin Carandang*	Kyle Garmany* (SJCN)	Justin Varghese*	

National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Seattle, WA

Deedra Balli *	David Cherian *	Celina Guillen *	Juan Razo *
Colin Carandang *	Leslie Cook *	Vien Lam *	Justin Varghese *
Dulce Carbajal *	Kyle Garmany* (SJCN)	Carol Morris* (SJCN)	Tek Williams*

PLTL National Conference, Houston, TX

Karla Alvarez	Chau Hoang	Nguyen Lam	Aaron Murray	Shafeeq Nooruden
Adewale Giwa	William Holtkamp	Troy Mason	Mai Nguyen	Marco Tzorin
Ruby Garza	Jonathan Keele	Ruby Mendez	Quynh Nguyen	Daniel Valadez
Elaine Garcia	Po-Hsien Kuo	Rim Mohamed		

RadTech e/5 UV&EB Conference, Chicago, IL

Jannie Dilber	Vien Lam *	Brian Rodriguez*	Shakti Sharma
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Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Denver, CO

Mohammad Abedi*	Jose Barajas	Jose Jaimes	Claudia Mendez	Patricia Ramon
Karla Alvarez*	Emily DeLaGarza *	Vien Lam*	Moses Osoro*	Juan Razo*

Tapia Conference 2005, Albuquerque, NM

Karla Alvarez	William Holtkamp*	Aaron Murray*
Moses Hernandez	Ruby Mendez	William Stegall*

Texas Academy of Sciences

Jannie Dilber*	Brian Iken*	Martina Maier*
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Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

Shidrokh Ardestani*	Nguyen Lam	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Arbelia Roman
Leslie Cook *	Vien Lam	Shajeer Noorudeen	Kevin Spring
Jannie Dilber *	Marlin Mathews	Moriam Ojelade	

Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Hunstville, TX

Adam Drake	Rim Mohamed
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Sixth Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair

17 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

Fifth Annual UHD Student Research Conference

67 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

Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

Karla Alverez	Po-Hsien Kua	Quynh Nguyen	Tan Pham
Emily DeLaGarza	Shuaib Mansoori	Shafeeq Noorudeen	Patricia Ramon
Elaine Garcia	Troy Mason	Ariana Paniagua	Olga Soto
Adewale Giwa	Rim Mohamed	Mai Nguyen	Marco Tzorin
Jonathon Keele	Mai Nguyen		

Computer & Mathematical Science Tutors

Joe Barajas	Moses Hernandez	Chad Kocurek	Tai Phan
Kevin Phuong Bui	Chau Hoang	Troy Mason	Olga Soto
Laura Castellanos	William Holtkamp	Ruby Mendez	Bao Tran
Craig Foster	Jonathon Keele	Aaron Murray	Daniel Valadez
Ruby Garza			

Engineering Technology Tutors

Antonio Tito

Natural Science Tutors

Mohammad Abedi	Leslie Cook	Karim Masri	Moses Osoro
Betul Akin	Janie Dilber	Lee Anne McGaha	Blythe Parham
Imene Bokhetache	Ngan Ha	Hunter Nguyen	Marco Tzorin

Peer Mentors Senior PM: Laura Castellanos

Nayef Al-Thani	Emily DeLaGarza	Mai Lam (Fall 2005)	Moses Osoro
Prince Buzombo	Jose Gamez	Vien Lam	Fabian Ramirez
Dulce Carbajal	Elaine Garcia	Ana Medina (Fall 2005)	Jose Sandoval
Daisy Cherian	William Holtkamp	Ruby Mendez	Olga Soto
Leslie Cook	Adnane Kidari		

Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Poonam Gulati	Dr. Hong Lin	Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin
Dr. Ping Chen	Dr. Erin Hodgess	Dr. Phil Lyons	Dr. Edwin Tecarro
Dr. Byron Christmas	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Deanna McCullough	Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo
Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Kenneth Johnson	Dr. Lisa Morano	

Scholars Academy Members Spring 2006

