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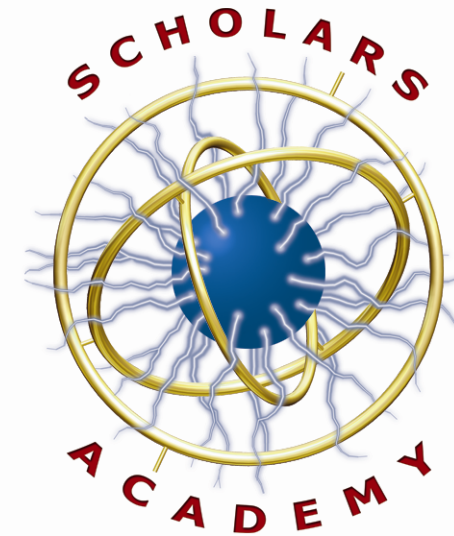
University of Houston-Downtown

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.

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Spring Convocation



May 6, 2009

Scholars Academy Program Staff

Scholars Academy Staff

Director: Dr. Vicky Estrera
 Peer Mentor Coordinator: Ms. Mitsue Nakamura
 Program Manager: Mr. Rene Garcia
 Administrative Assistant II: Ms. Lois Smith
 Student Assistants: Frances Acevedo and Carlos Lacayo

Executive Committee

Dr. Richard Aló	Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff	Dr. Dennis Rodriguez	Dr. Akif Uzman
Dr. Weining Feng	Dean George Pincus	Dr. Larry Spears	

Peer Mentors Senior Peer Mentor: Nicolle Patterson

Ali Abedi	Nguyen Lam (Fall 08)	David Nanyes (Fall 08)	Kulsoom Shah
Araly Barrera	Marsida Lisi	Shajeer Noorudeen	Elvia Sierra
Jonathan Gamez (Fall 08)	Liem Luong	Danil Safin	Elizabeth Sosa
Audrey Gonzalez	Claudia Moreno	Laura Sanchez	Nicolas Spampinato
Michael Irving			

Faculty Mentors

Dr. Jon Aoki	Dr. Weining Feng	Dr. Hong Lin	Dr. Catherine Shaffer
Dr. Ping Chen	Dr. Erin Hodgess	Dr. Phil Lyons	Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon
Dr. Maria Benavides	Dr. Brad Hoge	Dr. Deanna McCullough	Dr. Shengli Yuan
Dr. Byron Christmas	Dr. Kenneth Johnson	Dr. Lisa Morano	

Below are SA Graduates at the Fall 2008 Commencement: Adolfo Aranzales; Brendon Bingwa; Wendy Callejas; Grantley Christie; Fabiola Cortez; Jonathan Gamez; Eduardo Garzon; Lauren Gracia; Lindsay Harrigal; Claudia Jimenez-Lopez; Uffaf Khan; Benedict Khoo; Connie Larsson; Son Le; Josie Nava; Saile Palacios; Le Phan; Mark Smithers; Antonio Tito, Jr.; An Vo; and Gabriel Williams.



Scholars Academy Members Spring 2009

Gloria Abarca	Fouad	Suzette Khan	Matthew Ojeda	Elva Sierra
Seyed Abedi	Elmoustaquim	Jarrett Kitchen	Chukwuma Okeke	Irena Sigel
Frances Acevedo	Betsy Escobar	Mitesh Koirala	Cynthia Olvera	Elizabeth Sosa
Rogelio Acuna	Elena Espino	Po-Hsien Kuo	Stephanie Omage	Jesus Soto
Kethlyn Africa	Ambreen Fatima	Nguyen Lam	Justine	Nicolas
Manuel Aguirre	Antoine Ferguson	Adolfo Lara	Onyedebelu	Spampinato
Tahlia Aickareth	London Flores	Ruben Larraga	Ee Lyn Ooi	Matthew
Javier Alamirra	Amy Flower	Julio LaTorre	Alarna Paterson	Stevenson
Christian Alvarez	Bartlomiej	Tomy Le	Nicolle Patterson	Mindy Swee
Nameera Baig	Fryszczyn	Marsida Lisi	Silvia Pejerrey	Ibiene Tamuno
Sujan Bajracharya	Samantha	Shawn Luce	Kristi Pennington	Tao Tang
Mario Barbosa	Fuentevilla	Liem Luong	Norma Pereida	Stephanie Thames
Araly Barrera	Cecilia Garcia	Elizabeth	Nhung Pham	Nghia Tran
Jesus Barron	Dennis Garcia	Magreola	Phuong Pham	Jose Trinidad
Brandy Bell	Esmeralda Garcia	Shitul Maisuria	Catherine	Ebelin Vaquiz
Adrian Berry	Walter Garcia	Amber Martinez	Pimentel	Christine Varghese
David Brown	Arturo Garza, Jr.	Victor Martinez	Marsha	Karina Vazquez
Tung Bui	Edgar Gatica	Sunu Mathew	Ramesar-Babu	Rosa Villagomez
Michael	Micaela Gilbert	Robert McCardell	German Ramirez	An Vo
Butterworth	Dhiran Giri	Angelica Medina	Sheyla Randle	Christina Wallace
Jennifer	Audrey Gonzalez	Mustafa Mehmood	Rachel Richison	Tabitha Ward
Carmichael	Terri Hoover	Mohamedwesam	Karla Rios	Courtney Watts
Karla Castro	Orlando Huerta	Mohamed	Reuben Rodriguez	Jaye Weston
Melissa Chan	Victoria Ike	Yuricel	Elda Rueda	Antoine
Carlos Chavez	Joseph Irving	Mondragon	Danil Safin	Williams-Baisy
Preeti Choudhary	Abdul Jangda	Benito Morales	Anisa Saleh	Desiree Wilson
Kelly Colby	Jorge Jaramillo	Claudia Moreno	Cynthia Sanchez	Annie Wong
Jessica Collins	Nirmal John	Ivan Mosqueda	Laura Sanchez	Nazokat
Alicia Corazon	Anthony Johnson	Jarod Mounger	Mayra Sanchez	Yaklibova
Erick Cruz	Alexander Jolley	David Nanyes	Ivo Sanjoh	
Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Ashley Jones	Anna Nguyen	Salpy Sarkis	
Marlyn Davila	Jonathan Jordan	Hung Nguyen	Stephen Seidel	
Leonard Dees	Jonathan Keele	Jackie Nguyen	Oluwadamilola	
Rosalinda Delgado	Jeremy Kemp	Nhuy Nguyen	Seriki	
Casianna	Russell Kendrick	Van Nguyen	Kulsoom Shah	
Dominguez	Rebecca Kern	Yuhanna Njeim	George Shitera	
Anais Duran	Margie Key Swink	Shajeer Noorudeen	Daniel Siddiqui	

2009 Honor Corps

First Year

Javier Alamirra
 Sujan Bajracharya
 Brandy Bell
 Jennifer Carmichael
 Kelly Colby
 Rosalinda Delgado
 Elena Espino
 Cecilia Garcia
 Edgar Gatica
 Dhiran Giri
 Victoria Ike
 Jeremy Kemp
 Russell Kendrick
 Rebecca Kern
 Margie Key Swink
 Marsida Lisi
 Hung Nguyen

Van Nguyen
 Matthew Ojeda
 Stephanie Omage
 Ee Lyn Ooi
 Norma Pereira
 Phuong Pham
 Reuben Rodriguez
 Daniel Siddiqui
 Mindy Swee
 Jose Trinidad
 Ebelin Vaquiz
 Karina Vazquez
 Tabitha Ward
 Courtney Watts
 Desiree Wilson

Second Year

Seyed Abedi
 David Brown

Tung Bui
 Wendy Callejas
 Rafael Cruz Ortiz
 Betsy Escobar
 Bartlomiej Fryszczyn
 Micaela Gilbert
 Audrey Gonzalez
 Joseph Irving
 Jonathan Keele
 Amber Martinez
 Victor Martinez
 Wesam Mohamed
 David Nanyes
 Elda Rueda
 Danil Safin
 Laura Sanchez
 Elva Sierra
 Irena Sigel

Alvin Sosa
 Jesus Soto
 An Vo

Third Year

Araly Barrera
 Dennis Garcia
 Shawn Luce
 Liem Luong
 Shajeer Noorudeen
 Nicolle Patterson
 Kristi Pennington
 Rachel Richison
 Oluwadamilola Seriki
 Nicolas Spampinato
 Nghia Tran

Fourth Year

Nguyen Lam

Awards Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Vicky Estrera, Scholars Academy Director

Special Recognition:

Scholarship Achievements

Joint Admission Medical Program Scholars

Betsy Escobar Arturo Garza, Jr. Audrey Gonzalez

Red Rose Scholars for 2008-2009

Araly Barrera Joseph Irving Mohamedwesam Mohamed Danil Safin
 Dennis Garcia Nguyen Lam Shajeer Noorudeen Elva Sierra
 Micaela Gilbert Liem Luong Kristi Pennington Nicolas Spampinato

Red Rose Scholars for 2009-2010

Ali Abedi Dennis Garcia Wesam Mohamed Reuben Rodriguez
 Brandy Bell Micaela Gilbert Jarod Mounger Laura Sanchez
 Tung Bui Mustafa Mehmood Stephanie Omage Desiree Wilson
 Betsy Escobar

Research Achievements

Internships & Research Programs (Summer 2008 to Spring 2009)

Gloria Abarca	Samantha Fuentesvilla	Shawn Luce	Domineca Pines
Seyed Abedi	Dennis Garcia	Laura Lucio	Aswini Ramachandran
Frances Acevedo	Esmeralda Garcia	Liem Luong	Marsha Ramesar-Babu
Kethlyn Africa	Arturo Garza	Amber Martinez	German Ramirez
Ibrahim Al Khalil	Edgar Gatica	Sunu Mathew	Sheyla Randle
Javier Alamirra	Micaela Gilbert	Mustafa Mehmood	Juan Razo
Felipe Astorga	Audrey Gonzalez	Wesam Mohamed	Nida Rizvi
Nameera Baig	Lauren Gracia	Pantea Mohammadi	Stanley Roberts
Sujan Bajracharya	LaToya Green	Yuricel Mondragon	Reuben Rodriguez
Midar Balimuttajjo	Lindsay Harrigal	Mathew Monroe	Erum Roopani
Araly Barrera	Renauda Helaire	Timothy Morales	Elda Rueda
Brandy Bell-Lee	Yvonne Hernandez	Blayne Mounger	Danil Safin
Brendon Bingwa	Joseph Michael Irving	Claudia Moreno	Laura Sanchez
David Brown	Charles Jeffcoat	David Nanyes	Mayra Sanchez
Tung Bui	Jonathon Jordan	Van Nguyen	Stephen Seidel
Wendy Callejas	Syeda Kazmi	Shajeer Noorudeen	Daniel Siddiqui
Flor Castro	Jonathon Keele	Andrew Obiora	Elva Sierra
Melinda Chin	Jeremy Kemp	Mathew Ojeda	Elizabeth Claire Simpson
Grantley Christie	Rebecca Kern	Shamsideen Ojelade	Natalie Sirisaengtaksin
Jessica Collins	Uffaf Khan	Juana Olvera	Mark Smithers
Alicia Corazon	Benedict Khoo	Justine Onyedebelu	Nicolas Spampinato
Marilyn Davila	Jarrett Kitchen	Ee Lyn Ooi	Tao Tang
Jamal Dawson	Rameshwari Korrapati	Daniel Osakue	Antonio Tito
Rosalinda Delgado	Carlos Lacayo	Saile Palacios	Ebelin Vaquiz
Elena Espino	Nguyen Lam	Nicolle Patterson	Karina Vazquez
Ambreen Fatima	Julio LaTorre	Kristi Pennington	An Vo
Antoine Ferguson	To-Kwok Lau	Norma Pereira	Tabitha Ward
Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Marsida Lisi	Tia Pilaroscia	Desiree Wilson

LS-AMP Outstanding Scholar Awards

Araly Barrera Nguyen Lam Phuong Pham

Brown Foundation Leadership Awards

Seyed Abedi Audrey Gonzalez Nicolle Patterson Elizabeth Sosa

Spring 2009 Graduating Seniors

Sujan Bajracharya	Cecilia Garcia	Nguyen Lam	Justine Onyedebelu	Elizabeth Sosa
Araly Barrera	Esmeralda Garcia	Liem Luong	Ee Lyn Ooi	Nicolas Spampinato
Alicia Corazon	Joseph Irving	Elizabeth Magreola	Nicolle Patterson	Mindy Swee
Rosalinda Delgado	Anthony Johnson	David Nanyes	Kristi Pennington	Nghia Tran
Fouad Elmoustaquim	Jonathan Keele	Van Nguyen	Rachel Richison	Courtney Watts
Ambreen Fatima	Rebecca Kern	Chukwuma Okeke	Daniel Siddiqui	Nazokat Yaklibova
Bartlomiej Fryszczyn	Po-Hsien Kuo	Cynthia Olvera		

Scholars Academy Members Spring 2009



Student Attendance and Presentations at Student Research Conferences and Professional Meetings

Geological Society of America (GSA) 2008 Joint Annual Meeting, Houston, TX

London Flores* Benedict Khoo* Jose Salinas* Leena Thompson*
Claudia Jimenez* Josie Nava* Natalie Sirisaengtaksin*

Fourth Annual Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Huntsville, TX

Grantley Christie Jonathan Gamez* Marsida Lisi Danil Safin
Alicia Corazón* Yvonne Hernandez Victor Martinez Jose Trinidad

UH Undergraduate Research Day, Houston, TX

Daniel Siddiqui*

Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference, Keystone, CO

Melinda Chin LaToya Green Rebecca Kern

Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference, Houston, TX

Javier Almirra	Melinda Chin	Orlando Huerta	Robert McCardell	Cynthia Sanchez
Itzel Baltazar	Rafael Cruz Ortiz	Anthony Johnson	Gilbert Padraic	Mayra Sanchez
Araly Barrera	Loisa Ford	Jonathan Keele	Saile Palacios	Aldec Saniel
Adrian Berry	Jonathan Gamez	Rebecca Kern	Alarna Paterson	Alexander Santiesteban
Reyna Bonilla	Lauren Gracia	Shamsa Khalil	Aswini Ramachandran	Daniel Siddiqui
David Brown	Latoya Green	Carlos Lacayo	Hina Rehman	Elva Sierra
Kevin Bullock	Hooman Hemmati	Marsida Lisi	Reuben Rodriguez	Mark Smithers
Adrian Cantu	Terri Hoover	Liem Luong	Danil Safin	Courtney Watts

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

Salt Lake City, UT

Jennifer Beltran* Antoine Ferguson* Micaela Gilbert* An Vo*
Betsy Escobar* Edgar Gatica* Tao Tang* Desiree Wilson*

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Orlando, FL

Dennis Garcia* Claudia Jimenez* Julio LaTorre* Nicolle Patterson* Natalie Sirisaengtaksin*
Edgar Gatica* Uffaf Khan* David Nanyes* Kristi Pennington* Nicolas Spampinato*
Micaela Gilbert* Benedict Khoo* Josie Nava* Laura Sanchez

Supercomputing Conference 2008, Austin, TX

Melinda Chin Hooman Hemmati* Jonathon Keele*
Rafael Cruz Ortiz Orlando Huerta Danil Safin*

National Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Washington, DC

Betsy Escobar* Micaela Gilbert* An Vo* Desiree Wilson*

Mathematical Association of America (MAA) 2009 Joint Mathematics Meetings, Washington, DC

Ali Abedi* Tung Bui* Yvonne Hernandez* Pantea Mohammadi* Nida Rizvi*
Lauren Bernelle Audrey Gonzalez* Marsida Lisi* Tia Pilaroscia

Georgia Institute of Technology 2009 FOCUS Scholars Program, Atlanta, GA

Betsy Escobar Wesam Mohamed Nida Rizvi Laura Sanchez

Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions Annual Meeting, Mountain View, CA

Araly Barrera Rafael Cruz Ortiz Hooman Hemmati* Carlos Lacayo Alexander Santiesteban
Adrian Cantu Jose Gamez Orlando Huerta Liem Luong* Mark Smithers
Melinda Chin* LaToya Green* Jonathan Keele* Reuben Rodriguez*

Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, New Braunfels, TX

Flor Castro* Nguyen Lam* Johnny Ramos* Ebelin Vaquiz*
Audrey Gonzalez* Julio LaTorre* Claire Simpson* Karina Vasquez*
Claudia Jimenez* Claudia Moreno* Nicolas Spampinato*

Lone Star Graduate Diversity Colloquium, San Antonio, TX

Melinda Chin Preeti Choudhary Alexander Jolley Hung Nguyen Nhuy Nguyen

Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference, Portland, OR

Javier Almirra Edgar Gatica Rebecca Kern Stephanie Thames
Walter Garcia Jeremy Kemp Robert McCardell

Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Texas Section Annual Meeting, Denton, TX

Ali Abedi* Jose Trinidad

9th Annual Scholars Academy Graduate School and Internship Fair

21 Student Posters from the UHD College of Sciences and Technology

8th Annual UHD Student Research Conference

64 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

Dennis Garcia Claudia Jimenez Nguyen Lam Desiree Wilson

Peer-Led Team Learning Workshop Leaders

Ali Abedi Audrey Gonzalez Anisa Saleh Amanda Sirisaengtaksin
Michael Butterworth Po-Hsien Kuo Kulsoom Shah Nicolas Spampinato
Melinda Chin Nguyen Lam Elva Sierra Jose Trinidad

Computer & Mathematical Sciences Tutors

Araly Barrera Jonathon Gamez Jonathon Keele Mai Nguyen
Melinda Chin Edgar Gatica Shawn Luce Reuben Rodriguez
Alicia Corazon Hooman Hemmati Liem Luong Daniel Safin
Rosalinda Delgado

Engineering Technology Tutors

Grantley Christie Leonard Dees Daniel Siddiqui

Natural Science Tutors

Sujan Bajracharya Michael Irving Nguyen Lam Shajeer Noorudeen
Brandy Bell Jonathan Jordan Julio La Torre Ivo Sanjoh
Tung Bui Benedict Khoo Wesam Mohamed Nicolas Spampinato
Elena Espino